THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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AMAZON CLOUD OUTAGE AFFECTS INTERNET SERVICES FOR HOURS

Many popular internet services and some banks went offline for hours on Monday due to an outage in Amazon's crucial cloud network

ISSUE RESOLVED AFTER OVER FOUR HOURS

Amazon's Prime Video, Disney+, Perplexity AI, Airbnb, Snapchat, & Duolingo were hit. Messaging apps such as Signal and WhatsApp were also affected in Europe, a website monitoring internet problems said. Amazon Web Services (AWS)'s maintenance site fixed the underlying DNS issue over four hours after they became aware of "increased error rates" hitting multiple services

AWS, THE CLOUD LEADER

- AWS handles nearly a third of the planet's cloud infrastructure market, powering millions of apps and websites around the world
- It is followed closely by Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud
- AWS said Monday's problem appeared to originate in one of its critical infrastructure zones located in the US state of Virginia

8.5 MN

DEVICES WERE AFFECTED IN A 2024 OUTAGE DUE TO FAULTY UPDATE BY CROWDSTRIKE

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Coordination of forces brought Pak to its knees during Op Sindoor: PM

Modi says since 2014, new indigenous ship or submarine added to Navy every 40 days

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@New Delhi

PM Narendra Modi with Navy personnel aboard INS Vikrant during his Diwali visit, off the coast of Goa and Karwar, on Monday | PTI

IN keeping with his longstanding tradition of celebrating Diwali with the armed forces, Prime Minister Narendra Modi once again marked the festival with service personnel on Sunday and Monday. This year, he celebrated Diwali with Navy officers and sailors aboard the INS Vikrant, off Goa coast. During his visit, the Prime Minister interacted with the Navy's bravehearts, sat with them and shared meals, cementing not just an official connection but an emotional bond with the naval personnel, symbolising his role as a guardian of the nation.

Addressing the sailors and officers, he said on Monday that the exceptional coordination among the three armed forces -- fear instilled by the Navy, extraordinary skills of the Air Force and bravery of the Army -- forced Pakistan to its knees during Operation Sindoor in no time.

On Atma Nirbharta, he said, "We are proud that our armed forces have made rapid strides toward self-reliance in the past decade. Our armed forces made a list of thousands of items and decided that these will no longer be imported. As a result, most of the essential equipment for the forces is now being produced within the country."

Further highlighting the achievements in the defence manufacturing sector, he said, "Defence production in over 11 years has more than tripled. Just last year, it crossed a record of Rs 1.5 lakh crore. Since 2014, on average, one new indigenous warship or submarine is being added to the Navy every 40 days."

He said, "Our missiles like BrahMos and Akash proved their capabilities in Operation Sindoor as well. BrahMos — just the name alone creates fear. Now, several countries around the world want to buy these missiles. Bharat is now building the capacity to export weapons and defence equipment for all three services."

INDIA ON VERGE OF ERADICATING MAOISTS: MODI

Panaji: India is on the verge of eradicating Naxal-Maoist terror and more than 100 districts freed from this scourge will celebrate Diwali with dignity this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday. He lauded the bravery of the security forces, saying they have reduced Maoist influence to just 11 districts, from 125 districts a decade ago | P9

'MENTAL HARASSMENT'

Ola engineer kills self, FIR against Bhavish, others

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A 38-year-old homologation engineer at Ola Electric Company, Koramangala, died by suicide by consuming poison, leaving a 28-page handwritten death note, accusing Ola founder Bhavish Aggarwal and other senior staff of mental harassment and financial exploitation. Ola, in a statement, said the engineer had never raised any complaint or grievance regarding his employment or harassment, and challenged the FIR against its CEO and others before the Karnataka High Court.

Bhavish Aggarwal

The deceased, K Aravind, was a resident of Manjunathanagar in Chikkalasandra. He reportedly died by suicide on September 28, and the jurisdictional Subramanyapura police registered a case of abetment to suicide (BNS 108) against Bhavish Agarwal, Subrath Kumar Dash, Head of Vehicle Homologations and Regulations, and others on October 6, based on the complaint by 41-year-old Ashwin Kannan, Aravind's brother.

Ashwin, a businessman, told TNIE that they got suspicious after Rs 17.46 lakh was transferred to his brother's account after the latter's death and three people claiming to be from Ola came to their house and gave some vague explanations. "When we checked, we found the 28-page detailed handwritten death note by my brother in his room. The matter was immediately brought to the notice of the police, after which a case of abetment to suicide was filed," he added.

Since the complainant did not initially know the exact reason for his brother's death, he filed a complaint suspecting foul play. The Subramanyapura police had registered a case of Unnatural Death Report under Section 194(3)(iv) of the Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

Aravind studied engineering at a city-based college and was a mechanical engineer. He was unmarried and was staying with his parents. "My brother was working as a Homologation Engineer at Ola Electric Company, Koramangala, since 2022," Ashwin said. P3

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EXPRESS READ

Man, wife electrocuted in Uttara Kannada

Uttara Kannada: A man and his wife were electrocuted after coming into contact with an overhead cable line that had fallen in front of their house at Honnavara in Uttara Kannada district on Sunday evening. The villagers staged a dharna in the hospital demanding action against Hescom authorities | P6

6 JNU students booked a day after clash

New Delhi: The Delhi Police booked and bound down six students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), including three office-bearers of the students' union, on Monday, a day after the students' clash with the police left several injured.

Cracks in Bihar grand alliance as Cong, RJD candidate list clashes

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

THE rift within the opposition Mahagathbandhan widened on Monday after the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) released a list of 144 candidates, hours after the Congress finalised five more names, taking its tally of candidates to 61 for the upcoming Bihar assembly elections.

The RJD's final list sets the stage for a direct contest between the two major partners of the 'grand alliance' -- part of the INDIA bloc -- in five seats. They will also have to contend with the CPI, another key ally, in three-four seats if an agreement is not reached. This has led to confusion among workers of the various parties.

Alliance leaders said that there is still scope for an agreement as the last date of withdrawal of names for the second phase is Wednesday. In the meantime, RJD put to rest rumours that it would contest Kutumba, held by Congress state president Rajesh Ram. On Monday, Ram filed his papers from the constituency.

Both the RJD and the Congress have fielded candidates in Narkatiaganj, Lalganj, Vaishali, Sultanganj and Kagalgaon. Similarly, the Congress and the CPI have fielded candidates in Bachhwara, Kargahar, Bihar-sharif and Rajapakar.

However, in a relief to the Mukesh Sahani-led Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) candidate for Gaura Bauram, Santosh Kushawaha, RJD chief Lalu Prasad issued a letter clarifying that the seat has been allotted to VIP.

JMM PULLS OUT

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren-led Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) has decided not to contest the Bihar election. The party had earlier announced plans to contest six seats. Alleging a political conspiracy, the JMM blamed its allies, the RJD and the Congress, for its withdrawal.

RUSSIAN OIL

Trump says India to pay 'massive tariffs'

AGENCIES @Washington

US President Donald Trump said India is going to pay "massive tariffs" if it continues to buy oil from Russia, while reiterating that he got assurance from Prime Minister Narendra Modi that New Delhi is going to halt its oil purchases from Moscow.

Speaking to reporters onboard Air Force One, Trump said India will "continue to pay massive tariffs" if they do not cease buying oil from Russia, adding that "they (India) don't want to do that". Trump was replying to a question about India's recent remarks on oil purchases from Russia.

India last week said it is "broad-basing and diversifying" its sourcing of energy to meet market conditions, hours after Trump claimed that Modi assured him that New Delhi will stop procuring Russian crude oil.

Trump said he does not believe India made such remarks. "But I don't believe they said that. No, I spoke with Prime Minister Modi of India, and he said he's not going to be doing the Russian oil thing," the US President added.

Washington has been maintaining that India is helping Putin to finance the Ukraine war through its purchase of Russian crude oil.

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Sri. K. Venkatesh, Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry and Sericulture.
Sri. T. H. M. Kumar, I.A.S. Administrator, K.M.F and Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Karnataka
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Stampede-like situation at CM's event, 13 fall ill

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mangaluru

IN all, 13 women and children fell ill during the Ashoka Jana Mana event at Kombettu Ground at Puttur on Monday.

CM Siddaramaiah attended the event, organised by Puttur MLA Ashok Rai, to distribute plates and clothes to the public for Deepavali. The programme started late and concluded by 4pm. As the crowd exceeded the stadium capacity, several people especially women and children felt suffocated and fell ill soon after the CM left the venue around 4 pm. Lunch too was served around that time. "The situation was caused when people rushed to the spot where lunch was being served and gifts given out," a police source said. P7

'Angrezon ke zamane ke jailor' Asrani passes away at 84

SHREYAS PANDE @Mumbai

VETERAN actor Govardhan Asrani, known for his impeccable comic timing and striking onscreen presence, passed away at the age of 84 on Monday after a prolonged illness in Mumbai. Asrani was admitted to Bharatiya Arogya Nidhi Hospital in Mumbai four days ago after he experienced difficulty in breathing. Doctors said water had accumulated in his lungs.

In a career that spanned over five decades, Asrani acted in over 300 films. The actor's first artistic stint was at All India Radio, where he worked as a voice artist. The acting bug struck Asrani in 1960, and he moved to Mumbai. He later joined the Film and Television Institute of India in 1964.

After passing out of the institute, Asrani acted in *Hare Kaanch Ki Choodiyan* (1967), and for two years after that, the actor worked prominently in Gujarati films. It was Hrishikesh Mukherjee who offered him a supporting role in *Satyakam* (1969), which ushered his return to Hindi cinema. In 1972, his collaboration with Mukherjee for *Bawarchi* marked an important shift in his career and cemented his position as an actor with natural comic rhythm. His antics found a louder release later in the iconic *Sholay* (1975), where he played the role of an eccentric jailer.

He appeared in close to 100 films from 1970 to 1979, and his collaborations with Rajesh Khanna was celebrated for its quality and longevity. P7

Veteran of 300 films

Asrani had acted in over 300 films in a career spanning over five decades. He has largely played character roles, and has garnered wide acclaim for his impeccable comic timing

ALMANAC TODAY

- **Tuesday:** 21.10.2025 • **Year:** Vishwavasu • **Ayana:** Dakhsinayana
- **Ritu:** Sharad • **Masa:** Aswayuja • **Paksha:** Krishna • **Tithi:** Amavasya 3.44 pm
- **Nakshatra:** Chittha 10.01 pm • Moon in Tula Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 03:00 am to 04:30 am
- **Gulikakala:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm • **Yamaganda:** 09:00 am to 10:30 am

WEATHER

MIN 20°C | MAX 27°C

FORECAST
Isolated tstorms. Overcast

Sunrise 06.10 am
Sunset 05.57 pm
Moonrise 05.50 am
Moonset 05.45 pm

Crucial citizen services hit by survey extension

Daily targets for e-khata, tax collection among others not being met

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

WITH the extension of the deadline for the completion of the Socio-Economic Survey in Bengaluru, the wait for government services has just got longer.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar said that the deadline for the survey has been extended till October 31 in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits.

Services like e-khata, revenue-related services, clearing fallen trees, attending to clogged drains, roadside water logging clearance, and various works in the Regional Transport Offices (RTO), including transfer of ownership of vehicles, renewal of licence, hypothecation process of sending message to vehicle owners who clear loan on vehicles, all will continue to remain affected.

A senior official from GBA's Revenue Department stated that, not just e-khata, most of the so far around 8.5 lakh e-khatas out of 32 lakh have been generated, and due to the ongoing survey, daily targets have not been able to be met. Tax collection, and other sources of revenue generation is also impacted severely.

Agreeing with the senior official, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Employees and Officers Association President Amruth Raj said the works related to e-khata and revenue is impacted as out of 1,500 revenue employees majority of them are on survey duty.

An enumerator collects details from a household during the caste survey at Jayanti Nagar recently | KEVIN NASHON

"Sixty Revenue Officers, 30 Assistant Revenue Officers in GBA, along with hundreds of Revenue Inspectors, Tax Inspectors are on survey duty and hence are facing inconvenience with e-khata and others", said Raj.

Due to the delay, the owners who want to obtain loan for construction activities will have to wait longer.

If this is the case with the GBA revenue department, the Forest Department in the GBA is more worried as the North East Monsoon, which results in issues like trees uprooting and branch fall will pose as a big challenge.

"There are only 18 staffers, including the Deputy Chief Conservator, across the GBA. In case of any emergencies, rushing the staff along with the supporting staff of ward engineers will surely be delayed. Many of them are on survey duty away from the official work jurisdiction, and by the time they conclude the survey, its late evening and they are exhausted, hence heading to the spot to attend to the complaints is a herculean task," said a Range Forest Officer with the GBA.

Impacted by the non-availability of officials at the RTO has resulted in many motorists fuming at the government. Raju N, a senior citizen who went to Kasturi Nagar RTO for his license renewal, waited for officials for an hour and was later informed by the group D staff that his work can only be done after the officials return to work after the survey.

"I visited the RTO on October 16 and was told that my work will be done only after Deepawali. However, now that the survey is extended till the month-end, I am sure that my work will be done only in November 1st week," said Raju.

A senior officer from the administration section of the transport department said that around 200 employees have been deployed from 11 RTOs in Bengaluru and also from head office, hence some of the motorists will be inconvenienced.

SPARKLES AND GLITTER

The night came alive with fireworks as families adorned homes with diyas and colorful rangolis to clebrate Deepavali, the festival of lights, in Bengaluru on Monday. Minto Eye Hospital reported nine cases of eye injuries caused by firecrackers, with one patient requiring admission for further treatment | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Land search on for new corpn offices

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

OFFICIALS of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the Urban Development Authority (UDD) are now looking for large buildings or around three acres of land to construct buildings to house the offices and council halls of the five new corporations.

GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao said, "Rs 100 crore has been set aside to purchase land and construct buildings. Till the buildings are ready, the hall at the GBA head office can be used for council meetings."

After elections to the councils of these corporations are held, the monthly meetings will be held at the head office. However, after the buildings and council halls are constructed, the 270-seat hall at the GBA head office will be shut, said a GBA official. The GBA hall was reconstructed at a cost of Rs 8 crore and it took around three years for completion of work.

"We have identified some places, but cost is a concern. There is a shortage of government land. Meanwhile, efforts are on to shift all zonal and jurisdictional corporation offices to the existing zonal commissioners' offices for better coordination. An architectural agency will soon be identified to oversee work on the new buildings of the five corporations to ensure there is no competition or conflict," the official said.

BSWML to collect, process animal waste separately

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BANGALORE Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), which has been taking multiple steps to keep the city free from garbage, has now called for tenders for animal waste collection and disposal.

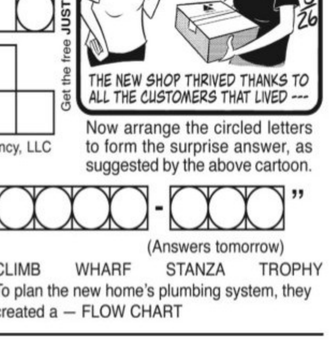
In the absence of a proper system, animal waste, which include the intestine, skin, feathers, bones and others, are either disposed of with the regular garbage or discarded at secluded places, near lakes, thrown into stormwater drains, inviting birds and stray dogs. Along with this as the wastes start rotting they emanate foul smell. To put an end to this, BSWML aims to collect animal waste separately and process it scientifically.

Speaking to TNIE, BSWML CEO Karee Gowda said, "Animal waste is a big problem in Bengaluru. The city generates over 250 tonnes of it every day, and to date, there has been no agency fixed for the collection. The wastes generated were thrown along with the normal wastes, and they were discarded at secluded places, thrown into stormwater drains."

Once the tenders are finalised, agencies will be fixed for each of the five Bengaluru City Corporations. Chicken, fish, mutton, pork and beef waste, along with the bones, will be collected from the meat markets and shops across Bengaluru. The agency will be tasked to collect and handle the animal wastes scientifically, Gowda said.

He said that once this animal waste collection takes off, it will address the issue of indiscriminate disposal of them in the city, leading to foul smell, and the problems associated will be put to rest.

To address the continuous criticism against the garbage problem in the city, BSWML has taken multiple initiatives. It kicked off a drive to clear all the black spots in the city. It started to collect all the discarded items like furniture, mattresses, broken commodes, cots and will be launching an app where people can tag the location of these items lying unattended in public places, and such items will not be cleared but fit items will be recycled. The idea of collecting animal waste separately is an addition towards clean Bengaluru.



EXPRESS READ

BOI celebrates vigilance awareness week

Bengaluru: Bank of India (Bengaluru zone) conducted various vigilance awareness programmes, ahead of the Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 (October 27-November 2), in accordance with Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) guidelines. As part of the initiative, competitions were set up for school students from October 13 and 14 at Shree Sharada Vidyalaya, Amruthnagar. Moreover, a human chain activity was organised on KG Road on October 15. Guest lectures on the topic were delivered by Dimple Due, Deputy Superintendent of Police at Central Bureau of Investigation (Bengaluru), and an officer from the Cyber Crime Police Station (North Division). Nirmesh Jee, Deputy Zonal Manager; Ajay Bhanu, Deputy Zonal Manager - Recovery, branch managers and staff members were present. ENS

In Horamavu, SWD encroachment leads to persistent water-logging

MOHAMMED YACOOB
@Bengaluru

VINAYAKA Layout in Horamavu is getting flooded over the last four years due to encroachment of the the 1.8 meters-long Storm Water Drain (SWD). Water from the shoulder and side drains from homes upstream are flooding the two streets in the upscale layout.

The residents had raised the matter with the Assistant Director of Land Records in the Revenue Department. A survey was done and the encroachment markings were done. However, the Bengaluru East City Corporation (erstwhile Mahadevpura Zone) officials have never taken any interest in removing the encroachment that has been preventing the free flow of water.

Vinayak Medi, a resident staying in Vinayaka Layout for the last few years, said the issue was escalated to the engineers from the ward as well as the stormwater drain department, but they did not attend to the problem.

"Even a moderate rainfall is enough to flood at least two streets in the layout, and over 30 homes will be underwater. Water floods sumps, and homes will go under one to two feet of water. We have now approached Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. He has assured us to look into the issue. Now that the North East Monsoon has stepped in, if the encroachment is not cleared, the same situation will arise," said Medi.

A street at Vinayak Layout is water-logged due to SWD encroachment | MOHAMMED YACOOB

Lakshmi, another resident, said that safety of the residents is at stake as the electric pole is also under water two feet from the ground and in case of short circuit, lives will be lost."Snakes and snails are coming inside homes due to water stagnating on the road and we are forced to park our two- wheelers where flood water seeps in and walk on the side drains slabs," she said.

Arpitha, Assistant Executive Engineer, Horamavu Ward, confirmed the encroachment and said that a team of surveyors had shared the details, and action will be taken to clear the encroachment. "We will write to the jurisdictional police for protection and then deploy the JCB team and remove the encroachment", said Arpitha.

CITY INFRA

Harsh Goenka backs Shaw, takes dig at DCM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE debate over Bengaluru's crumbling civic infrastructure is drawing more attention after industrialist Harsh Goenka backed Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw. Goenka criticised Karnataka's top politicians for targeting those who raise civic concerns instead of fixing the issues. RPG Enterprises Chairman Harsh Goenka, in a post on X on Sunday said, "It's unfortunate how thin-skinned our politicians are. When Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw spoke up about Bengaluru's crumbling infrastructure, instead of fixing it, they turned it into politics."

On a sarcastic note predicting future action, he further stated, "Now they'll pressurize her to post 'positive tweets'. So typical - attack the critic, not the problem."

He was reacting to Mazumdar-Shaw's response to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. The senior Congress leader, who is minister in charge of Bengaluru's development, on Saturday said Mazumdar-Shaw and former Infosys CFO TV Mohandas Pai, who has also spoken about the city's infrastructure issues, had some "personal agenda".

Responding to Shivakumar's remarks, Kiran clarified that her criticism is consistent across administrations. "Not true. Both TV Mohandas Pai and I have criticised deteriorating infrastructure in our city to previous BJP & JDS governments. Our agenda is clear, clean up and restore roads," she tweeted.

Asserting that constructive criticism is welcome as it's vital for a healthy democracy, the DCM pushed back against "extreme targeted remarks". Shaw also recounted how a foreign business visitor to Biocon Park was shocked by Bengaluru's garbage-strewn roads and questioned whether the government truly wanted to attract investment.

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

21st October : Justice Moon The new moon in Libra ponders the idea of "justice for all." It's an ideal no human society has been able to live up to. We live in economies, laws, histories, supply chains, and most people cannot fully opt out of those even if they believe the system is unjust. The paradox: To survive, participate. To be moral, question that participation. It's a tension that's not resolvable, only balanced.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Externalize your stress. Write it, speak it, move it out. Don't let it stay trapped in your muscles and stomach. You don't prove you care by suffering. You prove it by being loving, which is easier when you're lighter.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
It's not necessarily pessimistic to see problems that don't (yet?) exist. This kind of mental exercise can actually be a form of optimism. It's your belief in solutions that allows you to imagine a full range of future scenarios.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
Even as you aim for efficiency, you know that it's not always the most effective way. People need to feel seen and safe to open up. If you're not getting an authentic version of them, you probably won't get the best connection or contribution either.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
Your natural appeal is working for you now; the more quirks you lean into, the stronger your magnetism. Being appealing doesn't mean everything works smoothly right away. Your first efforts might stumble or meet resistance. That's normal. You're just warming up.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
A performance doesn't have to be onstage to get applause. The way you present yourself today wins fans. Warmth is your default, just like the sun that is your guiding luminary, and you'll have orbits today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
People underestimate the courage it takes to ride the rollercoaster of a creative life. Exciting experiments, connections that spark or disappoint, risks galore -- all part of the creative process. You have the stomach for it today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
You will not be fooled by what is technically clever but morally hollow. What erases context, compassion and reality does not erase your awareness. You point to the real problem. Nothing can stop you from seeing it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
You sense the unspoken currents in the room and respond with heart. This gift doesn't obligate you to carry anyone else's load, only to witness with compassion, which is often just what is needed to facilitate healing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Fresh perspective comes with fresh context. Change the scenery, even slightly, and your mind loosens from its old grooves. You'll see a problem in a whole new light. You may even solve the issue instantly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
Sometimes it's about getting into the mix and handling things. And sometimes it means staying out of the mix and observing things. Your instinct about which tactic to take is what makes you a stellar leader.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
The more time you spend in front of a screen, the more important it becomes to touch what's real. Paper, stone, leaves, skin -- textures recalibrate you in ways no feed or algorithm ever could.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
Consider the role of silence. Not absence, but the active nothingness, pure potential, presence without interruption. In a blank space, priorities will get rearranged. Energy will be restored. Questions will be answered. The hush speaks louder than any conversation.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle ⬇

9								
		6		8			9	
1	5		2			4	6	7
				2	5			
2	9						1	4
			9	1				
3	6	4			7		5	8
	8			5		3		
								1

7	9	2	8	4	5	1	3	6
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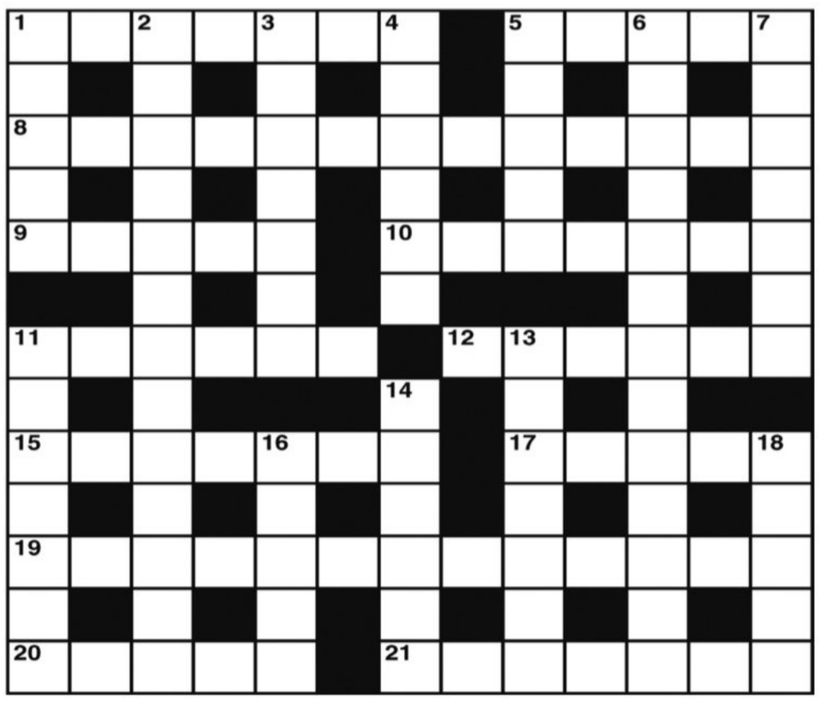
1	5	6	4	2	8	3	9	7
2	7	3	1	5	9	6	4	8
9	8	4	3	7	6	5	2	1
6	2	5	9	1	4	8	7	3
4	3	7	6	8	2	9	1	5
8	1	9	5	3	7	4	6	2

SUDOKU MEDIUM

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Course set south in barren terrain (7)
5 Possibly eager to correspond (5)
8 Acts spiritedly but courts disaster (5,4,4)
9 Place me to the right of the subject (5)
10 Not having been given a good hiding? (7)
11 The first importance - or the second (6)
12 Slip up in the gun room (6)
15 Let nine out being merciful (7)
17 It may be said twice for comfort but not here (5)
19 They confuse some scholars about start of term (13)
20 Enough beer for a politician to have around (5)
21 Private study (7)

DOWN

1 HQ of the French vessel (5)
2 American vessel showing political acumen (13)
3 Point behind the ship towards sunrise (7)
4 Rob and possibly hit a girl (6)
5 Fly from a ship (5)
6 Reforming the unit remembers repayment (13)
7 One constituent of fire may be oxygen for example (7)
11 Aimless sort of girl (7)
13 Made a move to train as a mechanic (7)
14 Good man maps out marks of official approval (6)
16 Make a run to clinch the match (5)
18 Some keep some souvenirs of where the Derby is run (5)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Yield, 8 Virulent, 9 Adobe, 10 Attitude, 11 Octet, 12 Are, 16 Stated, 17 Relief, 18 Air, 23 Droll, 24 Ornament, 25 Divot, 26 Urbanity, 27 Egret.

Down: 2 Indicate, 3 Libretto, 4 Victor, 5 Music, 6 Set up, 7 Ether, 12 Ada, 13 Err, 14 Alarming, 15 Well done, 19 Ignite, 20 Rogue, 21 Snubs, 22 Omens.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

RULME

SUAEP

SLEMYL

NRUHBC

WILCO
This neighborhood loves their music.
We picked the perfect spot to open a record store.
8/26
THE NEW SHOP THRIVED THANKS TO ALL THE CUSTOMERS THAT LIVED ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: " ○○○○ - ○○○ "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CLIMB WHARF STANZA TROPHY
Answer: To plan the new home's plumbing system, they created a — FLOW CHART

The Hennur police have arrested three men for allegedly attacking two youths with machetes on Sunday. The accused are Ameen Sharef (24), Syed Arbaz (20), and Syed Khadar (21). According to police, Kiran and Bharath were bursting crackers when a spark accidentally touched Arbaz, leading to a spat. Later, five accused arrived on three bikes, brandishing machetes, and injured the two. On Monday afternoon, three of the accused were nabbed. Search is on for the others

9-yr-old boy beaten with PVC pipe by school principal

Mother of victim files plaint against principal. school owner and teacher; Police issue notices to all three accused, inform education dept

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A parent has filed a complaint against the principal, owner, and a teacher of a private school where her nine-year-old son is attending Class 5.

The principal is accused of beating the boy with a PVC pipe as he was absent for two days.

Divya (30), a resident of Hoysala Nagar in Sunkadakatte, has filed the complaint against Rakesh Kumar, Principal of New St. Mary's Public School, located on Pipeline Road in Sunkadakatte, Vijay Kumar, the owner of the school, and Chandrika, a teacher.

The boy is alleged to have been beaten by the Principal between 4 pm and 5 pm on October 14. The complaint was filed on the next day.

In her complaint, Divya stated that her son has been studying in the school for the past three years and the fees are being paid regularly. "Rakesh Kumar beat my son mercilessly with a plastic PVC pipe, causing blood clots and injuries. Class teacher, Chandrika, assisted in the assault by holding the child when he tried to escape the blows. Vijay Kumar who was present during the incident pretended not to know anything and instead encouraged the principal to continue beating my child. As a result, my son suffered physical and mental trauma. When I questioned their actions, the accused said, 'You people should not interfere. This is how we discipline students in our school. If you talk too much, we'll show you the same fate. Take your child's Transfer Certificate and leave," Divya has stated in the complaint.

Speaking to the media on Monday, Divya said that after the incident, the management has not even called once to enquire about my son. "My son is being accused of consuming some substance. In that case, let them get a medical check done for my son. In order to mislead, the management is accusing my son of wrongdoing," she said.

The police have issued notices to all the three accused for enquiry. "We have also brought it to the notice of the education department as the incident reportedly happened inside the school premises. The complainant has stated that her son was beaten after the school hours by locking him inside a classroom. She has also accused the principal of locking the boy in a dark room from 5 pm to 7.30 pm," said an officer.

A case of cruelty to child under section 75 of Juvenile Justice Act, 2000, causing hurt by dangerous weapons (BNS 118(1)) and criminal intimidation (BNS 351(2)) has been registered against the accused.

'NO FOUL PLAY'

Man jumps from 3rd floor of city mall, dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A 34-year-old man ended his life by jumping from the third floor inside GT World Mall on Magadi Main Road in the KP Agrahara police station limits on Monday. The deceased was said to be suffering from depression.

The deceased, **Sagar**, was a resident of KHB Colony and was an engineering dropout. The police said that he came to the mall alone in an autorickshaw, went up to the third floor, climbed onto the escalator and jumped. Despite the mall having safety nets, he jumped at a place where there was no safety.

According to his family members, Sagar had been undergoing treatment at NIMHANS for the past 10 years. He had earlier attempted suicide multiple times and was suffering from psychological issues. He was unmarried and unemployed. The body has been sent for postmortem.

CCTV footage has been analysed, and there was no foul play behind the death. An unnatural death report (UDR) has been registered at the KP Agrahara police station.

HELPLINE

Someone who is having suicidal thoughts, help is available anytime for you or friends. Call Sneha Foundation - 04424640050, Tele Manas -14416 (24x7) or call, Tata Institute of Social Sciences'- 02225521111 (Monday-Saturday 8am-10 pm)

WELCOMING PROSPERITY

People purchase banana plant stems for Lakshmi Puja on the occasion of Deepavali at KR Market on Monday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

No arrests have been made yet: Cop

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"ON September 28, 2025, around 10.45 am, he allegedly drank poison at the residence in Chikkalasandra where he was staying with my parents. He started vomiting and that was when it was known that he had consumed poison. He was rushed to a private hospital, and was treated immediately. But he died between 12.30 pm and 12.45 pm the same day. Two days after my brother's death, on September 30, 2025, Rs 17,46,313 was found to have been transferred via NEFT by the company into my brother's bank account. That was when we started getting suspicious about his death. On October 1, 2025, when Subrata Kumar Dash was questioned about the suspicious payment, the company's HR initially responded. Later, company representatives Krutesh Desai, Paramesh and Roshan visited our residence and gave vague explanations about the financial transaction, which appeared to be an attempt to cover up the company's wrongdoing, raising further suspicion," Ashwin said.

"The death note, found in my brother's room, revealed that Subrata Kumar Dash and Bhavish Aggarwal had allegedly been harassing my brother, putting him under work pressure and withholding his salary and other dues, which caused him mental distress. In the note, my brother stated that he was consuming poison and ending his life due to the harassment by these individuals and sought justice for his death through legal action against them," Ashwin added.

A police officer said, "We have issued notices to the accused for inquiry. No arrests have been made yet. The engineer died by consuming poison. The FIR was registered based on the handwritten death note left by the victim."

Ola statement

In a statement, Ola said Aravind had been associated with Ola Electric for over three and a half years and was based at its headquarters in Bengaluru.

"During his tenure, Aravind never raised any complaint or grievance regarding his employment or any harassment. His role also did not involve any direct interaction with the company's top management, including the promoter. We have challenged the registration of the FIR before the Hon'ble Karnataka High Court and protective orders have been passed in favour of Ola Electric and its officials," the company stated.

"To provide immediate support to the family, the company promptly facilitated the full and final settlement to his bank account. Ola Electric is fully cooperating with the authorities in their ongoing investigation and remains committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and supportive workplace for all employees," the statement added.

PEDESTRIANS, WATCH YOUR STEP, OR ELSE GET KNOCKED DOWN

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

CONSIDERING that the city lacks proper footpaths and there are also bleak chances of getting walkable footpaths in the near future, pedestrians need to take good care of themselves, to ensure that they are not knocked down by vehicles.

According to the recent National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) statistics, Bengaluru recorded the highest number of pedestrian deaths (287) in 2023 among 53 major cities. In 2024 alone, the city has reported 233 pedestrians death.

Experts warn that careless walking, such as jaywalking or using mobile phones near traffic can result in serious injuries or fatalities.

Traffic expert Prof. MN Sreehari told TNIE that pedestrians need to be cautious while walking in public places, especially when accompanied by children and senior citizens. "Most citizens are aware that the city lacks proper footpaths, but they must follow certain safety rules to protect themselves," he said.

He added that pedestrians should always follow traffic rules and cross roads only at designated points such as zebra crossings and foot overbridges. "If a stretch does not have a footpath, pedestrians should walk facing oncoming vehicles so they can see approaching traffic. When walking with children or senior citizens, they should be kept on the left-hand side for better safety," he said.

He emphasized that while pedestrians must remain cautious, it is not a long-term solution. "The government should focus on improving proper footpaths, clearing damaged and encroached pavements, and ensuring adequate street lighting to protect pedestrians who are often forced to walk on roads, risking their lives," he added.

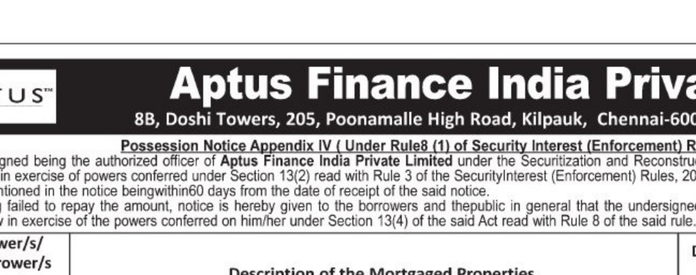
A senior traffic police officer said that pedestrian deaths often occur due to negligence and poor infrastructure. In the city, many pedestrians tend to cross roads by running or signalling with their hands, but speeding vehicles are often unable to stop in time, leading to accidents.

The officer advised that if there is no designated crossing spot, wait and cross the road carefully rather than running across it. Those walking at night should wear bright or reflective clothing to remain visible to drivers. The officer added that the police department is working to identify accident-prone zones to prevent further mishaps.

SAFETY TIPS

WAYS PEDESTRIANS CAN PROTECT THEMSELVES

- Use designated crossings such as zebra crossings or foot overbridges
- Never cross suddenly between moving vehicles
- Avoid using mobile phones or headphones while walking near traffic
- If there's no footpath, walk facing oncoming traffic
- Wear bright or reflective clothing, especially at night
- While walking, keep children and senior citizens on your left-hand side



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APTUS

Aptus Finance India Private Limited

8B, Doshi Towers, 205, Poonamalle High Road, Kilpauk, Chennai-600 010.Telephone: 044-4565 0003

Possession Notice Appendix IV (Under Rule8 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of **Aptus Finance India Private Limited** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the SecurityInterest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice calling upon theborrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice beingwithin60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and thepublic in general that the undersigned has taken **"Symbolic Possession"** of the property describedherein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rule.

Sl. No.	Loan Account No.	Borrower/s/ Co-borrower/s & Guarantors Name	Description of the Mortgaged Properties	Demand Notice Date	Possession Outstanding Amount (Rs.)	Date and Type of Possession Taken
1.	TKENGE00358 83	1.Mrs. Ramamani K G, 2.Mr. Bharath Kumar J and 3.Mr. Jayasimha	All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property bearing Eastern Portion Property No. 2A, Sy No. 47/2 situated at Aralukunte Village, Beguru Hobli, Bangalore south Taluk . Measuring East to West : 15-0 ft and North to South : 43-0 ft in total measuring 645 sq ft including House **and bounded by: East By** : Remaining Portion of the same Property , **West By** : Site No. 2B, **North By :** Site No. 1, **South By :** 20 ft Road **Boundaries: North By:** Site No. 1 , **South By:** 20 ft Road, **East By:** Remaining Portion of the same Property, **West By:** Site No. 2B.	22-05-2025	**Rs. 1378172/-** (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand One Hundred Seventy Two Only) as on 30.09.2025	16.10.2025 Symbolic Possession
2.	TYELAH0032007	1.Mr. Kalegowd and 2.Mrs. Pavithra	All That piece and parcel of immovable Property bearing Property No.146/375, E-Khata No.150300201600900213, Situated at, Beerasandra Village, Aluru Duddanahalli grama Panchayath, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. **bounded: Boundaries: North By:** House belongs to Muddurappa, **South By:** Sy No Property, **East By:** Own Vacant Land, **West By:** Own Vacant Land	22-05-2025	**Rs. 926876/-** (Rupees Nine Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Six Only) as on 30.09.2025	

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Aptus Finance India Private Limited** The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Place: ARALUKUNTE & BEERASANDRA

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Aptus Finance India Private Limited

APTUS

Aptus Value Housing Finance India Limited

8B, Doshi Towers, 205, Poonamalle High Road, Kilpauk, Chennai-600 010.Telephone: 044-4565 0003

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The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and thepublic in general that the undersigned has taken **"Symbolic Possession"** of the property describedherein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rule.

Sl. No.	Loan Account No.	Borrower/s/ Co-borrower/s & Guarantors Name	Description of the Mortgaged Properties	Demand Notice Date	Possession Outstanding Amount (Rs.)	Date and Type of Possession Taken
1.	AYELAH0123880	1.Mrs. Aruna, 2.Mr. Venkateshappa and 3.Mr. Nagaraju	All that peace and percel of immovable property besring khata no.338, situated at, huruligurki village, Venkatagirikote Grama Panchayath, vijayapura hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and **bounded on: North by** : Own vacont land, **South by** : Own vacont land, **East by :** Property belongs to chikkamarappa, **West by:** Road.	22-05-2025	**Rs. 9,32,441/-** (Rupees Nine Lakhs Thirty Two Thousand Four Hundred Forty One Only) as on 30.09.2025	16.10.2025 Symbolic Possession
2.	AYELAH0126307	1.Mr. Chowdappa, 2.Mrs. Chandrakala and 3.Mr. Muniraju	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Khaneshumari Khata No. 102/B, Janjar No.143, Situated at, Chanarapattana Village, Channarayapattana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. Measuring East West: 50 Ft, North South: 40 Ft, and **Boundaries: North by** : Vacant site belongs to Doddegowda Ramaiah, **South by** : Property belongs to Savitha, **East by :** 5 Feet Road, **West by:** Vacant site belongs to ChikkaBairappa.	22-07-2025	**Rs. 8,30,837/-** (Rupees Eight Lakhs Thirty Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Seven Only) as on 30.09.2025	
3.	AYELAH0119176	1.Mr. Nagaraj, 2.Mrs. Lakshmi and 3.Mr. Venkateshappa	All That Peace and Percel Of Immovable Property Bearing Khata No.225, Sy.No.121/4, Situated at, Huruluguriki Village, Venkatagirikote Grama Panchayath, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. and **bounded on: North by** : 15 Feet Road, **South by** : Property belongs to Narayaswamy, **East by** : House Belongs to Narayanaswam, **West by:** Property belongs to Venkatappa.	22-04-2025	**Rs. 7,83,681/-** (Rupees Seven Lakhs Eighty Three Thousand Six Hundred Eighty One Only) as on 30.09.2025	
4.	AYELAH0116216	1.Mrs. Prabha, 2.Mr. Chethan, 3.Mr. Narayanaswamy and 4.Mr. Anil	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Sy.No.34/1, residing at, Dharamapura Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.. measuring , East West: 43Ft, North South:33Ft, and bounded on: and **bounded on: North by** : Own Land, **South by** : Own Land, **East by :** Road, **West by:** Own Land.	22-05-2025	**Rs. 10,58,464/-** (Rupees Ten Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Four Only) as on 30.09.2025	
5.	AKENGE0100406	1.Mr. Rajendra And 2.Mrs. Amuda	All that piece and parcel of the Southern portion of plot/Site No.4, B Block, Naghavendra Nagar, Khatha No.2276, Unique ID No.150200101500602441, Property No.2276/4, formed in Sy No.26, situated at Neralur Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, presently comes under the limits of Neraluru Village Panchayath, measuring East to West 30 ft, North to South 20 ft, totally 600 Sq ft and **Boundaries: North by** : Remaining portion of the same Plot No.4, **South by** : Road. **East by :** Road, **West by:** Plot No.3, Old No.164.	23-06-2025	**Rs. 7,06,815/-** (Rupees Seven Lakhs Six Thousand Eight Hundred Fifteen Only) as on 30.09.2025	16.10.2025 Symbolic Possession
6.	AYELAH0094956	1.Mrs. Sayeeda Banu, 2.Mr. linayath Pasha, 3.Mr. Rahman Pasha and 4.Mr. Sabeena Banu	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No.15, Formed in Sy No.200, unique ID No.152800201501300418 as per Form 9 & 11A, Houselist No.200/15, situated at Mylappanahalli Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, presently comes under the Muddenahalli Grampanchyath limit, measuring East to West 30 feet (9.144Mts) , North to South 25 feet(7.62Mts), totally 750 Sq ft (69.68Sq.Mts)and **Boundaries: North by** : Site No.16, **South by** : Road, **East by :** Road, **West by:** Site No.30.	23-06-2025	**Rs. 8,04,357/-** (Rupees Eight Lakhs Four Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Seven Only) as on 30.09.2025	
7.	AKENGE0156946	1.Mrs. Sunitha S, 2.Mr. Manoj N and 3.Mrs. Anupama N	All that piece and parcel of property bearing E Khatha No.150200300100100081, Property No.84, ,situated at Choodanahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 11.5824 mtr and North to South 11.2776 mtr in all measuring 130.62 Sq mtrs and **bounded on: East By** : Road and Property belongs to Lakshmamma **West By :** House belongs to Haunuma narasppa **North By :** House belongs to Muniyamma **South By :** House belongs to Nagaraju and **Boundaries: North by :** House belongs to Muniyamma, **South by :** House belongs to Nagaraju, **East by :** Road and Property belongs to Lakshmamma, **West by:** House belongs to Haunuma narasppa.	18-02-2025	**Rs. 11,20,879/-** (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Nine Only) as on 30.09.2025	
8.	AKENGE01321 27, AKENGE01510 34 & AKENGE01853 64	1.Mr. Susheela, 2.Mr. Puttaraju V And 3.Mrs. Channamma	All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property bearing Property No. 4/3, Khatha No. 14, Chikkeluru Rampura Village, in limits of Chunchanakuppe Gram Panchayat, Thavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Measuring East to West : North Portion: 34 ft, South Portion: 31 ft and North to South : 22 ft and total measuring 715 sq ft and **bounded by: East By :** Property No. 1/3, **West By :** Road, **North By :** Property No. 1/2 , **South By :** Property No. 3,. **Boundaries: North By:** Property No. 1/2, **South By:** Property No. 3, **East By:** Property No. 1/3, **West By:** Road.	22-07-2025	**Rs. 9,13,462/-** **Rs. 4,46,398/-** & **Rs. 4,63,175/-** as on 30.09.2025	

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Aptus Value Housing Finance India Limited** The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Aptus Value Housing Finance India Limited

APTUS

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8B, Doshi Towers, 205, Poonamalle High Road, Kilpauk, Chennai-600 010.Telephone: 044-4565 0003

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The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and thepublic in general that the undersigned has taken **"Symbolic Possession"** of the property describedherein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rule.

Sl. No.	Loan Account No.	Borrower/s/ Co-borrower/s & Guarantors Name	Description of the Mortgaged Properties	Demand Notice Date	Possession Outstanding Amount (Rs.)	Date and Type of Possession Taken
1.	AYELAH0015755	1.Mr. Athaullah And 2.Mrs. Amina	All that piece and parcel of property being portion of Khaneshumari Khatha No.5/1798/1664, presently bearing Khatha No.5/1/5/1798/1664/A, Property No.24-16-88B, situated at Yalahanka Road, Ward No.5, Devanahalli, Bangalore Rural District. Comes under the limits of TMC, Devanahalli measuring East to West 35 feet and North to South 29 feet and **bounded by: North By** : Portion of same property belongs to Rahamathulla and 5 feet Passage, **South By :** property belongs to Saba Jan and Venkateshappa, **East By** : Property belongs to G. S. Amir Jan, **West By** : Government Urdu School.	23-05-2025	**Rs. 11,58,394/-** (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Four Only) as on 30.09.2025	16.10.2025 Symbolic Possession
2.	ABAN-GL0003707 & ABAN-GL0004265	1.Mrs. Yashoda G and 2.Mr. Nagaraja K V	All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No.28, Village Panchayath Khatha No.586/38, Situated at Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,Bangalore, Measuring East to West 30 Ft. and North to South 40 Ft . in total 1200 Sq.Fts and including a house constructed thereon and **Boundaries: North by** : Site belongs to Puttaiah, **South by** : Road, **East by :** Site belongs to Sri.Thyagarajan, **West by:** Site belongs to Sri.Aramal Bee.	23-06-2025	**Rs. 4,67,420/-** (Rupees Four Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Only) & **Rs. 11,12,830/-** (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Twelve Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Only) as on 30.09.2025	
3.	APEEN001355 5 and APEEN002385 0	1.Mr. Rangaraju, 2.Mrs. Lakshmievi and 3.Mr. Srinivasa	All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No.9, Assessment No.13/1 and 13/2, situated at Tarabanahalli Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet in all measuring 1200 sq.ft., and bounded on: and **bounded on: North by** : Site No.8, **South by** : Site No.10, **East by :** Others Property, **West by:** Road.	18-05-2024	**Rs. 17,30,313/-** (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Thirty Thousand Three Hundred Thirteen Only) & **Rs. 3,07,386/-** (Rupees Three Lakhs Seven Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Six Only) as on 30.09.2025	17.10.2025 Symbolic Possession
4.	APEEN0077702	1.Mrs. Bhagya, 2.Mr. Raju and 3.Mrs. Uma .B D/O Biligirirangayya	All that piece and parcel of the Immovable property land bearing Sy No. 24/1A1 an extent of 0-01 Guntas earlier being a portion of Sy No 24/1A situated at Kanakapura Village, kasaba Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagar District presently Comes under the Limits of shivanahalli gram panchayatha, V.P.khatha no. 24/1A and along with RCC house measuring East to west 40 ft North to south 30 ft and **Boundaries: North by** : Land belongs to Ramalinagaiah, **South by** : Government Road, **East by :** land belongs to Bharathi, **West by:** Land belongs to Ithiyaz.	22-07-2025	**Rs. 8,70,604/-** (Rupees Eight Lakhs Seventy Thousand Six Hundred Four Only) as on 30.09.2025	

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Aptus Value Housing Finance India Limited** The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Aptus Value Housing Finance India Limited

Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu S Bangarappa said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will soon inaugurate several schemes to improve the quality of education in the state. The Rs 3,000-crore Karnataka Public Schools scheme is one of them, he said

CM's adviser Rayareddy kicks up a 'sand'storm

Says official-mafia nexus causing a loss of ₹400 cr to exchequer

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's economic adviser **Basavaraj Rayareddy** unleashed a blistering attack on the state's sand mafia and officials allegedly shielding them. He claimed that the nexus is robbing the state of over Rs 400 crore in royalty every year.

In a letter to the Chief Minister, he accused corrupt officials and the sand mafia of jointly plundering the state's natural resources. "If we can collect income tax and GST efficiently, why not royalty on sand," he asked. He suggested a simple, transparent system where homeowners pay royalty directly to the government for sand used in construction — cutting out the middlemen and mafia.

He alleged that illegal payments and bribes routinely grease the wheels of the Mines & Geology Department and the local police, allowing unchecked sand smuggling to thrive "in broad daylight". The former housing minister and Yelburga MLA warned that he will escalate the issue to the CM, Urban Development Minister BS Suresha, Mines and Geology Minister SS Mallikarjun and DCM D K Shivakumar, demanding a coordinated crackdown on the sand mafia. Minister Mallikarjun told *TNIE*, "We will work out a strategy for sand, like we have for other sectors."

Ravindra Shetty of the Karnataka Association for Quarries and Crushers pointed out that even the Public Accounts Committee, led by then chairman and current Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, had earlier pegged the state's losses at Rs 18,000-20,000 crore from illegal sand, laterite and stone mining under the BJP regime.

Rayareddy also sought that officials stationed in the same place for many years be transferred to reduce bribery. He demanded appropriate action against many officials who are involved in rampant sand mining and corruption. He mentioned that every day, 100-150 trips of sand are illegally transported to neighbouring districts from Koppal.

He said over 200 people are involved in the sand mafia. A task force should be formed under the chairmanship of the deputy commissioner and action should be taken, he added. Sand mining is rampant in Hirehalla along the Tungabhadra river. As soon as the illegality was reported, alert officials registered a case.

Illegal granite mining too is going on in Budagumpa, Kerehalli and Bandi Harlapur areas. Based on a complaint filed, a team led by the additional director of the Mines and Geology Department conducted a site inspection and submitted a report.

(With inputs from Raghottam Koppar @ Gadag)

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

TOUGH TALK

Nod for pvt activities on govt premises based on law and order, says Siddu

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurates 'Ashoka Jana Mana', a gift distribution event, in Puttur on Monday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said that permission for private programmes on government premises will be given based on the law and order situation of the respective area.

Responding to a media query on restrictions on RSS activities in government properties, the Chief Minister said, "Back in 2013, when Jagadish Shettar was the CM, a similar circular was issued through the Education Department. We have not mentioned the name of any specific organisation in our circular, not even the RSS. We have implemented the same circular issued by them."

Shettar himself had stated that the circular was released by the Education Department, Siddaramaiah said. "Was he not the Chief Minister at that time? Why did they issue the circular? We have only stated that any organisation must seek permission before conducting activities on government premises. Granting permission will depend on law and order situation of that area," the CM said.

Taking a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the new GST regime, the CM said, "The Centre introduced GST in 2017. After collecting taxes for eight years, they have now reduced the GST rates and are claiming it as a Deepavali gift. Karnataka has incurred a loss of Rs 1,500 crore due to the implementation of GST."

Siddaramaiah also announced an ex-gratia amount of Rs 5 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to the family of seven-year-old Jisha, who lost her life in a honeybee attack on October 12.

K'buragi DC seeks police report on RSS route march

The Kalaburagi district administration has sought a report from the police on allowing the RSS to take out a route march in Chittapur on November 2, Deputy Commissioner Fouzia Tarannum has said.

Speaking to *The New Indian Express* on Monday, the DC said that she has received the application from the RSS district unit seeking permission to take out the route march. After getting a report from the police department, a decision will be taken, she said. The Kalaburagi district administration will submit the report to the court as per its direction, the Deputy Commissioner said.

Not singled out within Cong, says Priyank Kharge

Minister Priyank Kharge said in Bengaluru that he was not singled out in his fight against the RSS. He hit back at former CM Jagadish Shettar, who had claimed that the circular issued when he was the CM in 2013 to not give permission to private organisations to conduct non-academic activities on government high school playgrounds in Bengaluru was only the public instruction department's decision. "Shettar's claim is childish, as any official decision taken by a department reflects on the government," he said. He asserted that the new order by the Congress government is applicable to organisations, including the RSS.

"The court is saying follow the law of the land and the Constitution. Why are these people (RSS) not doing it? Is it wrong for the government to ask who these organisations are and whether they are registered or not? Why is it that you and I should submit the documents and the RSS does not? Are they not citizens of the country, or are they super citizens?" he asked.

Soon, legislation to curb spread of misinformation: CM

Puttur (Dakshina Kannada): Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said that RDPR and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge and Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil are currently working on drafting a legislation to curb the spread of misinformation and safeguard social harmony. Speaking at 'Ashoka Jana Mana' in Puttur, the CM said that Dakshina Kannada region was once a hotspot for communal incidents. "However, by appointing honest officers in key positions like the police commissioner and superintendent of police, we have managed to curb these issues. In many past incidents, we saw innocent people going to jail. We must stop spreading hatred based on religion and instead focus on becoming better human beings," the CM said.

State government diverting people's attention: Ashoka

Hassan: The Karnataka government is trying to divert people's attention from important issues such as crop loss faced by farmers in recent rains and floods by raising fresh issues like permission for organisations, including RSS, to conduct events on government premises, said LoP in Assembly R Ashoka. Addressing the media after visiting the Hasanamba Temple in Hassan, Ashoka accused CM Siddaramaiah of not releasing crop loss compensation for farmers. Ashoka said that the chief minister is yet to hold the all-party meeting to discuss a series of issues plaguing the state. Ashoka also challenged the CM for a debate over the funds released by his government and the previous BJP regime and urged him to release a white paper on the state's financial condition.

Give proof of state govt funding Cong in Bihar: Ministers to BYR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and IT/BT and RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge hit back at Shivamogga BJP MP BY Raghavendra for accusing the Congress State Government of funding the party in the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections.

Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Congress chief, asked the BJP to provide evidence to support its allegation. "MP Raghavendra should not join the list of hit-and-run leaders. His name should not be used as a synonym for lies," Shivakumar said while responding to the allegation that the money is going from Karnataka to fund the Congress in Bihar polls.

Priyank also sought proof from Raghavendra. He alleged that Raghavendra's father and former CM BS Yediyurappa had himself claimed that he had paid money to the BJP high command to become the CM.

"While sharing the stage with BJP leader Ananth Kumar, Yediyurappa had said in the open that there is an assumption that he became the CM free of cost but had to pay to the high command. Raghavendra might have forgotten this. Maybe that practice is prevalent in BJP. No wonder if you see the charges against the Maharashtra government and the dissolution of the Gujarat cabinet... it looks like they are not paying them (BJP high command) enough," Priynak alleged. He further charged that the BJP high command changed CMs in Karnataka by rotating the post between DV Sadananda Gowda, Jagadish Shettar, and Yediyurappa, whose removal remains a mystery. He also alleged that the BJP has indulged in removing elected government led by the opposition by purchasing the MLAs. "Where does the money come from for the BJP to carry out Operation Lotus?" he asked.

CM RUBBISHES CHARGES

On BJP's allegations that the Congress was using Karnataka as its "ATM," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told reporters in Puttur, Dakshina Kannada, that it was the saffron party that had collected money for elections and was now accusing the Congress of doing it.

BURDENED BUREAUCRACY

Caste survey piles up work, govt staff upset

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru:

DISCONTENT is brewing among government employees over the prolonged Socio-Economic and Educational Survey. Already burdened with work due to staff shortage, they now anticipate piles of work once they return to their offices after completing the survey.

The survey, which started on September 22, was to end on October 7, but with only around 60 per cent of enumeration complete in many parts of the state, the government decided to extend the survey deadline to October 18, ahead of the Deepavali festival break. Now, the government claims the survey is complete in most of the districts, except in Bengaluru where it is due to continue till October 31. Teachers have been relieved from survey work.

The Karnataka Government Employees' Association, which had earlier written to the Chief Secretary seeking exemption from survey duty during Deepavali, has written another letter urging the State government to exempt teachers taking up the Karnataka State Eligibility Test for the post of assistant professor in various degree colleges and universities. The test is scheduled on November 2, and the association has urged the government to allow these teachers to study.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka Secretariat Association staff is threatening to quit survey work midway as their office work has piled up. They had urged the government to relieve over 1,600 staffers from the secretariat deputed for the ongoing survey. Association President Ramesh Sanga had mentioned that secretariat staff cannot be considered as other department staff, as they look into communication between the State and Central governments, contempt of court cases, government cases before various courts, agenda to be discussed at cabinet meetings, RTI cases and other major issues. With their absence, these jobs have been partially stalled.

Official sources in the government told *The New Indian Express* that for the past one month, staff on deputation are on the ground, taking part in the survey. "We have staff shortage in many departments. In some departments, one person is doing two people's work, and now that he or she is taking part in the survey, a lot of work would have piled up," he said.

Referring to the Secretariat employees' plea, a member of the government association said work has not halted only in Bengaluru or Vidhana Soudha. "Letters from here are communicated to district level officials and staff who work at the DC's office, zilla panchayats and taluk panchayats. When there is no staff at the district level, who should send the mails," he asked. According to him, staff are getting frustrated as the date is getting extended but their work is not complete.

Priyank knows what pleases Rahul, says BJP MP

BJP MP Lahar Singh Siroya said when leadership change within the Congress is being talked about loudly in power circles, IT/BT and RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge has become extra ideological and attacking RSS. "He knows what pleases Rahul Gandhi. He knows making RSS a hobby horse is the best way to jockey for power with the real Congress high command, which of course does not include his father. By attacking RSS, Kharge Jr. has emerged as most loyal to Rahul's thinking and thought process than any other Congress leader in Karnataka, including Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar, Dr G Parameshwara, HK Patil, and Krishna Byre Gowda," Siroya said, adding that Priyank knows that if he attempts to be CM, he may at least end up being DCM.

CONG TO COUNTER RSS WITH CENTENARY OF AMBEDKAR BURNING MANUSMRITI

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

WITH the Congress-BJP ideological clash unlikely to die down, the Congress is likely to counter the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) centenary celebrations with a centenary campaign for Dr BR Ambedkar burning the 'Manusmriti'.

Karnataka RDPR and IT/BT minister Priyank Kharge is facing a backlash from opposition BJP and RSS sympathisers after he requested Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to ban RSS activities on government premises. The Congress high command has shown signs of throwing its weight behind Priyank, with DCM and KPCC president DK Shivakumar and AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge meeting last Friday evening to discuss the issue. Kharge passed on Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi's message that the party's rank and file should stand by Priyank over the issue.

Whenever Priyank has attacked the RSS and BJP, they have retorted that the Congress had defeated Dalit icon Ambedkar in elections. The issue was talked about both inside the assembly and outside, with BJP Dalit leaders alleging that the Congress insulted Ambedkar.

But with Priyank facing a tough time, the Congress is likely to chalk out a plan to pay BJP and RSS in the same coin, according to sources. The party is taking up Ambedkar's centenary to wean Dalits and backward classes away from the RSS and put BJP's Dalit leaders on the backfoot.

Congress MLC Ramesh Babu told TNIE the Ambedkar centenary plan will be chalked out with the party's top leaders, with the burning the 'Manusmriti', an ancient Hindu text that promoted inequality against Dalits and women, in 2027. "Let Dalit leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party, who are criticizing Priyank Kharge for not being a 'Dalit leader', prove they are really leaders of the Dalit community. I urge such Dalit leaders to prepare for the centenary celebrations of burning of Manusmriti, the Mahad Satyagraha organised by Dr BR Ambedkar in Maharashtra in 1927," he taunted.

"On what moral grounds do leaders of the Sangh Parivar, who advocated the Bhagavad Dwaj instead of the Tricolour, and the Manusmriti instead of the Constitution, criticise Congress leaders?" he questioned. Dalit Sangharsha Samithi (DSS) leader Mavalli Shankar said the DSS would launch a campaign on its own.

HAPPY SHOPPING!

A heap of garbage strewn on the busy Chickpet Main Road in Bengaluru on Monday. The city's main business hub faces a host of civic issues such as garbage menace, broken pavements, among others | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Governing body on cards for KPS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

SOON, the Department of School Education will constitute a governing body for Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) to monitor their development in terms of academics, infrastructure and finance. The officials along with Education Minister pointed out that there were no governing bodies to monitor the schools, their administration and frequent transfer of teachers.

Primary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa said, "The governing body was much required to monitor the development of KPS in Karnataka. All these years, there was no governing body for KPS schools. The governing body will include the principal of PU college, present Pay Disbursement Officer of KPS, chairman, heads of the high school or primary schools will be appointed as vice-chairman of the governing body. The Governing Body has been directed to meet at least once in two weeks to ensure the overall functioning and supervision of the school."

He added, "Besides the governing body, there is a School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC). It is mandatory to constitute an SDMC, under the chairmanship of the MLA of the Assembly constituency concerned and at least two members must be included from the previous SDMC of the merged schools." Besides, the school will have a single management bank account which will be maintained by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and two members nominated by the SDMC. This policy change has been brought to bring uniformity in terms of fund management in schools. As per the minister, some KPS schools have multiple bank accounts attached which do not help in management or bringing stability. Last week, the government announced upgrading of existing government schools into Karnataka Public Schools across the state. Of these, 500 schools will be funded by the Asian Development Bank, 200 by the Kalyan Karnataka Development Board and 100 by the Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Cooperation.

The campaign for admission in these schools will begin from November so that more children are enrolled. Each school can occupy upto 1,200 children.

A massive protest was staged by hundreds of members of the Valmiki Samaj on Monday at Basaveshwar Circle in Gokak, demanding the arrest of former MP Ramesh Katti in connection with his alleged derogatory remarks about the Valmiki community in the run-up to the recent Belagavi DCC Bank elections

HARASSED FOR DOWRY, LECTURER DIES BY SUICIDE AT GHATI DAM

Video by deceased states her husband's family had physically assaulted her about 15 days ago

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A 26-year-old lecturer ended her life by jumping into the M Visvesvaraya Dam, also known as the Ghati Dam, on the outskirts of Bengaluru, after recording an eight-minute video accusing harassment by her husband and in-laws.

She had been missing for the past two days, and on Monday morning, her body was found in the dam in the Doddaballapur Women police station limits.

The deceased has been identified as **Pushpavathi**, who had married Venu, a resident of Tapasihalli, about 11 months ago. She was working as a lecturer in a private college.

According to the video, Pushpavathi said that her married life was not cordial, as her husband avoided her and refused to live with her. Despite repeated attempts to reconcile, he continued to distance himself and verbally abused her when questioned. She also alleged that her in-laws demanded dowry and property and even told her to sleep with her brother-in-law if she wanted a child. Her brother-in-law also allegedly mentally harassed her.

Pushpavathi said that about 15 days ago, her husband's family physically assaulted her, hurled abuses, and dragged her, causing injuries. Her father-in-law warned her not to file a complaint, threatening that she would never be allowed back home. Later, during another argument, she was strangled and thrown out of the house recently. When her brother tried to intervene, he too was assaulted, she said.

The police said that a missing person case was registered based on the complaint filed by her brother on Sunday, and her body was found on Monday.

A case under Section 80 (dowry death), BNS, has been registered against Pushpavathi's husband Venu, father-in-law Govindappa, mother-in-law Bharathi, brother-in-law Narayanaswamy, and others. Venu and Govindappa have been detained and are being questioned, the police said.

HELPLINE: If you are having suicidal thoughts, or are worried about a friend or need emotional support, someone is always there to listen. Call Sneha Foundation - **04424640050,** Tele Manas - **14416** (available 24x7) or Call, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences' helpline - **02225521111,** which is available Monday to Saturday from 8 am to 10 pm.

PILLARS OF LANGUAGE

With Kannada Rajyotsava just days away, will portraits of Kannada litterateurs and luminaries painted over pillars of Namma Metro in the City Market area be cleaned and repainted? | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

NIOS push: 4,500 madrasa students to pursue mainstream edu

RASHMI PATIL @ Bengaluru

WITH a view to joining mainstream education, 4,500 students of madrasas in the state have registered for Class 10 and 12 exams through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).

Lokesh Kumar Aluru, an official at NIOS, Bengaluru Regional Office, said, "NIOS conducts exams twice a year. Interested candidates can appear for exams to be conducted in stream 1 and stream 2. While stream 1 exams will be held between April and May, stream 2 will take place between October and November. Students appearing for exams in April have to enroll in September so that they have sufficient time to study till March. Those writing exams in October should enroll in April or May. This year, 10,099 students will appear for stream 1 exams. Among them, 4,500 students are from madrasas. They too want to be part of mainstream education." Jeelani Mokashi, Director, Minority Welfare Department, said, "We signed an MoU with NIOS in 2024 to help students from madrasas join mainstream education. Interested candidates can pursue degree courses after clearing Class 10 and 12 exams. I am happy that 4,500 students have enrolled for these exams."

He said the department has set up an Academic Intensive Care Unit (AICU) in each madrasa. Each AICU has a teacher to teach English, Kannada, Science and other subjects. Classes will be held for two hours in the morning and evening. After these classes, the students will continue Islamic studies."

In all, 6,912 students appeared for the exams conducted by NIOS in 2024-25, 7,126 in 2023-24, 6,949 in 2022-23 and 7,233 in 2021-22.

Survey fails to consider inter-caste marriages

ANUBHAB ROY @ Bengaluru

AS the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (or the caste survey) stops for the festive season, it has come to light that enumerators are entering the patriarch's caste as the household's caste. While this is not entirely unexpected, it is a missed opportunity to get a statistical database for intercaste marriages in the state.

This is not unexpected as the survey is designed to be less concerned with the individual members of a family, than the unit itself. As Prof D Rajasekhar, former Director at Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), explains, "In socio-economic research, we [often] treat caste as a household variable, not an individual variable. We cannot have a situation where a household is unclassified that way. But at the same time, the government is going to miss a huge opportunity to figure out how many households have caste-based plurality."

This presents a patriarchal assumption that "the man of the house" is its automatic representative, irrespective of whether or not he is the primary breadwinner. "This is a big problem; a lot of identities and backgrounds are reduced. It doesn't take gender neutrality into consideration. It is a very backward and regressive way of looking at household dynamics," Rajasekhar asserted.

But there were exceptions. Social activist Mallige Sirimane recounts that the team of enumerators that came to conduct the survey of her family was cordial, and posed questions to the women first. "We have grown up identifying as casteless and part of the 'manava dharma' (humanity). Since that is not an option in the survey, all of the family members opted for the "none of these" option in the caste section," she remarked.

TODDLER FALLS INTO WATER TUB IN CHANNAPATNA, DIES

BENGALURU: An eleven-month-old girl died after falling inside a water tub on Sunday at her house in Jeevanpura in Channapatna Town police station limits in Bengaluru South district. The infant's mother, Muskaan, had kept the tub to mop the house. Shamshad, deceased's father, after returning home from work, asked his wife to give him some water and his wife went to the kitchen to get the water. Shamshad is working as a cook at a hotel in Channapatna. The baby, who was playing near the tub, has accidentally fallen inside. He noticed her daughter fallen unconscious in the tub. The baby was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital, where she was declared dead on arrival. The police have registered a case of unnatural death. The police are also checking if there is any foul play behind the girl's death. "The family is from North India. The child was their only daughter," said an officer. **ENS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client/s intends to purchase of the Schedule Property from **SRI.S.ANIL KUMAR** Managing Partner of Bhauma Developers, Having its office at No.40, 3rd Cross, 8th Main, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore-560001.

Any person having any objection regarding the said sale transaction, may contact the undersigned advocate with relevant documents within **15 days** from the date of this publication failing which it shall be deemed that there is no objection of any nature and my client will complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of **Agricultural property bearing Survey No.74/2, measuring 02 Acres of land, situated at Navarathna Agrahara Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk** and Bangalore District, & bounded on: **East by :** Property of Sri.V. Ramaiah, **West by :** 30 feet Road, **North by :** Property of Sri.Colaso, **South by :** Lake Bed.

SRINIVASA.H.K, Advocate,
Office at No.23, 1st floor, 5th Main, Hebbal, Bangalore-560024. Mob: 9900276729

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, R. Mahendra Varma, practicing Advocate, am issuing this public notice on behalf of my clients, Mr. Kaushik Kampli S/o. Ashok Kampli and Mrs. Jayalakshmi P W/o. Ashok Kampli, both residing at No. 2543 LIG, 3rd Phase, 4th B Main Road, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore - 560064.

They intend to purchase property bearing No. B5-30, located at 117, SFS "B" Sector, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore - 560064, from its current owner, Smt. Samian J. Kaur.

The former owner of the property, Mr. Jagmohan Singh, has reported the loss of the original sale deed bearing Document No. 8427/1988-89, Book-01, Volume-4203, Pages 79 to 81, registered with the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, on 17.03.1989. A police complaint regarding the loss was filed on 28.01.2016, and it was published in the daily newspapers on 02.02.2016. Despite these efforts, the original document has not been found.

Therefore, any person claiming a right or interest in the said document or property is requested to provide documentary proof of such claim to the undersigned within **7 days** from the date of this notice. Failure to do so will result in my clients proceeding on the assumption that no such claim exists.

Sd/- **R.Mahendravarma** Advocate,
No.42, R.G.Nagar, M.S.Playa,
Bangalore-560097, Mobile No.: 7795488467.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owners: (1)**Sri.M.M.ANAND RAM** S/o late M.L.Manjanath Shetty, (2) **Sri.MYSORE MANJANATHASETTY PANDURANGA** S/o late M.L.Manjanath Shetty, (3)**Sri.M.M.PARTHA SARATHI** S/o late M.L.Manjanath Shetty; (4)**Sri.MYSORE SAMPATHKUMAR SHIVAKUMAR** S/o late M.M.Sampath Kumar and his two sisters **Smt.USHA RANI CHILKEPALLY** & **Smt.M.S.ASHA**; and (5)**Sri.MAHESH LACHIA MANJANATHA** S/o late M.Lachia Setty and his sister **Smt.K.S.ANURADHA**.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the vacant immovable property bearing Municipal No.185 (PID No.61-35-185, New EPID No.2507381096) and Municipal No.59 (PID No.61-11-59, New EPID No.2507391989), together measuring on the East 100ft; on the West 90ft; on the North 115ft; and on the South 100ft, in all measuring 10,212.5 Sq.ft, situated at Rasthriya Vidyalaya Road and Mavalli Main Road, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Mavalli Main Road/Susheela Road;
West by : Rasthriya Vidyalaya Road;
North by : Property bearing No.182; and
South by : Property of Raghavendra.

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**, Advocate,
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES,
No.60, 2nd Floor, Old Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004.

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOST

I, Smt. M.R. RASHMI, D/o late M.S. Rajasekhara Murthy Residing at No.22, 25th Main Road, JP Nagar 1st Phase, Bengaluru-78, have lost/misplaced original regd. **SALE DEED document No.BNG(U)-KNGR-9318-2003-04 dtd:09.07.2003, of No.432, PID.No.130w1473-9, Khtha 213/1B, Nagdevanahalli, Kenegeri, Bengaluru,** Lost Article report also lodged vide No. 1847162/25, dated 12.10.2025 at police, if found please return me.

Sd/-
Smt. M.R. RASHMI
Mob. No. 9880879044.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that my client **Mr. Khalandar Khan** S/o. Ali Khan, R/at HM Word City down, Alahalli, Anjanapura, Bangalore-62, has lost the original of the **General Power of Attorney dt.15.06.1996, executed by Sri. V. Rajanna in favour of my client, relating to the Site Nos.83, 84 & 85 formed in Sy.No.11/2 of Avalahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk** measuring each site East to West : 40 feet; North to South : 30 feet, while travelling from Alahalli to his residence. Inspite of best efforts he could not trace the same and in this regard on 14.10.2025 he lodged a Police Complaint through online vide Lost Report **No.1849911/2025.** If anybody finds the above said document or is in possession, please handover the same to below said address.

NARASIMHAMURTHY A.S, Advocate
No.56A, 3rd Cross, 24th Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore, Mob: 9886434287

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, **Mr. Sarma Ramakrishna Nidumolu**, S/o Late N.V.G. Sarma, aged about 66 years, Resident of 13-6-434/C3, Maruthi Nagar, Langar Hauz, Golkonda, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh - 500 006, presently R/at No.28, Nandini Layout, Bangalore - 560 096, has lost the **Original BDA Site Allotment Letter bearing No.B11/28/NL/85-86 issued by BDA in favour of Mr. N.V.G. Sarma** in respect of the property bearing Site No.28, Nandini Layout, Bangalore - 560 096. In this regard, he has lodged a complaint with the Bangalore City Police regarding loss of this document and received an acknowledgement **bearing Lost Report No. 1859261/2025 dated 19.10.2025.**

If any person/institution happens to find this Original Document mentioned above, please contact his counsel at the below mentioned contact details and handover the same.

AMEYA FADNIS, ADVOCATE
No.245, 6th Cross, I Stage, Indiranagar,
Bangalore - 38. Ph: 9916455424
Date: 20.10.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that my clients **Mr. Vijay Varadarajan** & Mr. Madhavan Varadarajan, who are joint owners of the property no.105, 3rd cross, KSRTC Layout, J.P. Nagar-2nd Phase, Bengaluru-560078 have lost/misplaced their two original notarized General Power of Attorney (GPAs) dated 4-11-2007 & 5-11-2007, executed in favour of their father M.K.Varadarajan and attested by Consulate General of India at San Francisco (USA) bearing No.SANF/CONS/ESF/8796/07 & SANF/CONS/ESF/8801/07 respectively.

In that regard a Lost Article Report bearing No.1859219/2025 has been registered with Karnataka State Police. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing document. If anyone has any sort of claim either over the said document or over the aforesaid property or if anyone is in possession of the said document, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address **within 7 days** from this present.

PRITHVI RAJ B. N, Advocate, No.71,
Ground floor, 8th Cross, 1st Main, Sampangiramanagar, Bengaluru-27. Mb:9886563092.

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE VI ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU

O.S. No. 137/2022 (CCH-11)

BETWEEN : 1. Smt. Soofiya Haneef & Ors. D/o Syed Haneef, Aged about 30 years, R/at No. 70, 4th A Cross, 34th Main, Dollars Scheme, BTM Layout, 1st Stage, Bengaluru-560068. **...PLAINTIFF No. 1**

2. Mrs. Fathimunnisa Haneef, W/o. Syed Haneef, Aged about 56 years, R/at No. 70, 4th A Cross, 34th Main, Dollars Scheme, BTM Layout, 1st Stage, Bengaluru-560068. **...PLAINTIFF No. 2**

AND : 1. M/s Harmain Constructions & Ors. Registered office at No.3, Chikkabazar Road, Tasker Town, Bengaluru-560051.
Rep: Its managing Partner Sri. Haseeb Khan Also at: No. 35/1, 2 Spencer Road, Next to Medi Life Health Care Centre, Pulikeshinagar Bengaluru-560005. **...DEFENDANT No. 1**

2. Sri. Haseeb Khan, S/o Mehboob Khan, Aged about 39 years, R/at Harmain Regalia Devis Road, Sagayapura, Richards Town, Bengaluru-560084. **...DEFENDANT No. 2**

3. Sri. Irshad Khan S/o Mehboob Khan, Aged about 37 years, R/at Harmain Regalia Devis Road, Sagayapura, Richards Town, Bengaluru-560084. **...DEFENDANT No. 3**

SUMMONS/NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS NO. 1 TO 3 UNDER ORDER 5 R/W 20 OF CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, 1908

1. M/s Harmain Construction Registered office at No.3, Chikkabazar Road, Tasker Town, Bengaluru-560051.
Rep: Its managing Partner Sri. Haseeb Khan Also at: No. 35/1, 2 Spencer Road, Next to Medi Life Health Care Centre, Pulikeshinagar, Bengaluru-560005.

2. Sri. Haseeb Khan, S/o Mehboob Khan, Aged about 39 years, R/at Harmain Regalia Devis Road, Sagayapura Richards Town, Bengaluru-560084.

3. Sri. Irshad Khan S/o Mehboob Khan, Aged about 37 years, R/at Harmain Regalia Devis Road, Sagayapura Richards Town, Bengaluru-560084.

Whereas the plaintiff has filed the above suit against you and others in the Court of Addl. City Civil Judge at Bengaluru-CCH 11 at Bengaluru for execution of registered sale deed of the suit schedule property and also for others reliefs.

You are all hereby summoned to appear before the Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (CCH-11), in person or through an Advocate duly authorized to answer all questions involved in the suit **at 11.00 A.M. on 24.11.2025.** Take Notice that in default of your appearance on the said date and time, the suit will be heard in your absence and determined as exparte.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that is piece and parcel of the residential property bearing corporation No.7/1 (earlier forming a portion of Old No. 14, situated at Mc Peherson Road, Cooke Town, Corporation Ward No 86, Bengaluru, Now comes under BBMP, bearing New Municipal No. 7/1, PID No. 86-18-7/1, Mc Pherson Road, Maruthi Sevanagar, Bengaluru, measuring East by 80 feet, 4 inches, West by: 81 feet 9 inches, North by 50 Feet 9 inches and South by 48 feet 6 inches, totally measuring 4015 feet and bounded as follows:

East by : Property bearing No 7/2 Macpherson Road, **West by :** Property bearing No. 7 Macpherson Road, **North by :** Property bearing No. 2 & 3 Macpherson Road, **South by :** Macpherson Road.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

Flat bearing No. GF001, Ground Floor, front side (Part A) "Harmain Meadows" measuring 1551 of super built up area, to be constructed over the schedule 'A' Property comprising of 2 bedroom with attach bath room, dining hall, Kitchen with common staircase, life and individual electric meters, one closed car parking with basement / parking area and undivided share of 269 square feet. The apartment has a bore well and BWSSB meter with sump and over head tanks.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 18.10.2025.

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff: **Sri. M D Raghunath**
LEGAL AXIS, M.D. RAGHUNATH,
109, 1st Floor, Dharmaraja Koil Street,
Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-560 001.
Mob. No. 9845131550

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1
AT BENGALURU
No. 1, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore- 560 001

O.A. No.549/2024

Between: Canara Bank, SME Branch, Whitefield, Bengaluru **...Applicant**
And
Sri Sivakumar Reddy Puchalapalli & Another ...Defendants

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANTNo. 3 UNDER RULE 23(8) OF THE DRT PROCEDURE (REGULATION) RULES 1993

To: Sri Srikanth P. Reddy S/o. Sri Pallamreddy Rajashekar Reddy, No. 556, Ground Floor, 8th Cross, 8th Main, Coffee Board Layout, Bengaluru - 560 024.

Whereas, the above named applicant has instituted an application against you under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Bankruptcy Act,1993 for the recovery of money due together with current and future interest from the date of filing of this application till payment with cost of this application. The above- named defendatns are therefore, hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an advocate or an authorised agent duly instructed to show cause within 30 days from from the date of this publication or on **17.12.2025 at 10.30 a.m.** as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand the seal of this Hon'ble Tribunal this the day of **15.07.2025**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -I Bangalore

Advocate for Applicant
Mohanadasa N.Advocate
No. 3944/A, 2nd Cross, 'B' Block,
Rajajingar 2nd Stage, Subramanyanagar,
Bangalore - 560 021,
Ph: 9886776714/9448729391

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1
AT BENGALURU
No. 1, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore- 560 001

O.A. No.824/2024

Between: Canara Bank, SME Branch,Whitefield, Bengaluru **...Applicant**
And
Smt. P Sujana & Another ...Defendants

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(8) OF THE DRT PROCEDURE (REGULATION) RULES 1993

To: 1: Smt. P. Sujana W/o. Sri P. Sivakumar Reddy, Proprietrix M/s. Sri Sai Syndicate, No. 1570, 3rd Cross, "E" Block, AECS Layout, Kundalahalli, Bengaluru - 560 037.

2. Smt. P. Sindhura Reddy, W/o. Sri P. V. Subba Reddy, Flat No. 303, 'Mahaveer Classic', 1st Cross, Near Lakshmi Medicals, Venkatadri Layout, Sahyadri Layout, Panduranga Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 076

Whereas, the above named applicant has instituted an application against you under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Bankruptcy Act,1993 for the recovery of money due together with current and future interest from the date of filing of this application till payment with cost of this application. The above- named defendatns are therefore, hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an advocate or an authorised agent duly instructed to show cause within 30 days from from the date of this publication or on **17.12.2025 at 10.30 a.m.** as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand the seal of this Hon'ble Tribunal this the day of **15.07.2025**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -I Bangalore

Advocate for Applicant
Mohanadasa N.Advocate
No. 3944/A, 2n Cross, 'B' Block,
Rajajingar 2nd Stage, Subramanyanagar,
Bangalore - 560 021,
Ph: 9886776714/9448729391

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II
4th Floor, BSNL Building
Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru -560 001

O.A. No. 1025/2024

In the Matter of : State Bank of India, RACPC Koramangala Branch ,Bengaluru **..Applicant**
And
Mrs. Kurninji Meenakshi Dhanapal W/o. Mr. Jeevan Kumar Mekala and Others **....Defendants**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF RBD Act, 1993 (as amended)

To: 1.Mrs. Kurninji Meenakshi Dhanapal Aged about 44 years, W/o. Mr. Jeevan Kumar Mekala, R/o:S-1,Block-B, Prabhavathi Meridian, 1st Cross Road, Doddathouguru (Near Star Medicals), Bengaluru - 560 100, PAN CUFPK2775M, Mob : 9080439804/8074155324, E-mail: KURNIJI1589@GMAIL.COM

2. M/s. Gulam Mustfa Enterprises Pvt Ltd., Regd. off: GM pearl, No. 6, BTM Layout, 1st Stage, Bengaluru, CIN: U70100 KA1982PTC004720 (Represented by directors) **....Defendants**

WHERES, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 (as amended), against the Defendants for a sum of Rs.55,08,740/- mentioned in the Original Application together with current and future interest and for other relief's.

The above mentioned Defendant/s is/are therefore hereby directed appear before this Hon'ble Tribunal in person or through an Advocate duly authorised agent in support of his/her defense, within 30 days from the date of publication or **on 24.11.2025 at 10.30 a.m.**, as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 19.07.2025

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II ,
Bangalore- 560 001.

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1
AT BENGALURU
No. 1, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore- 560 001

O.A. No.830/2024

Between: Canara Bank, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage Branch, Bengaluru **...Applicant**
And
Smt. Manjula D ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23(8) OF THE DRT PROCEDURE (REGULATION) RULES 1993

To: 1: Smt. Manjula D., W/o. Sri Murthy, Propritrix M/s. Manjula Engineering Works, No. 53, 50 feet Road,, Srinivasa Nagar, Sunkadakatte, Bangalore - 560 081, Mobile : 9008721861/910867602

2. Alternate address: No. 224/4, Siddaganga Layout, Doddabidrakallu, Opposite Prithi Water Supply, Bangalore - 560 073

Whereas, the above named applicant has instituted an application against you under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Bankruptcy Act,1993 for the recovery of money due together with current and future interest from the date of filing of this application till payment with cost of this application. The above- named defendatns are therefore, hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an advocate or an authorised agent duly instructed to show cause within 30 days from from the date of this publication or on **17.12.2025 at 10.30 a.m.** as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand the seal of this Hon'ble Tribunal this the day of **15.07.2025**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -I Bangalore

Advocate for Applicant
Mohanadasa N.Advocate
No. 3944/A, 2nd Cross, 'B' Block,
Rajajingar 2nd Stage, Subramanyanagar,
Bangalore - 560 021,
Ph: 9886776714/9448729391

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
Notice to the Proposed Respondent No.3 (B&D) & Proposed Respondent No.4 (A&B)
Vide order dated: 10.10.2025
R.F.A.No.614/2009

M.Naryanappa ...Appellant
(By Sriyuths: Shravan S Lokre Adv., for appellant)

-v/s-

K Somashekar since dead by Lrs..
Chandrappa since dead by Lrs..
Smt. Manjula and others ....Respondents
(By Sriyuths : G. Venkatappa Adv., for R2(a to c). R3 to R6, D.S Mali Patil Adv., for R8 & R9. Amaresh A Angadi Adv.. for R10 & R11)

To:

Proposed Respondent No.3(B &D) & Proposed Respondnet No.4(A & B):

3.b) SMT. BHAVANI D/O LATE KRISHNAMURTHY R/AT NARAYANAKERE VILLAGE. ANUGONDANAHALLI HOBLI, HOSKOTE TALUK BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT.

3.d) SMT. TANUJA D/O LATE KRISHNAMURTHY R/AT NARAYANAKERE VILLAGE. ANUGONDANAHALLI HOBLI, HOSKOTE TALUK BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT.

4.a) SMT. BHAGYA W/O LATE RAMACHANDRA VENKATESHPURA BUS STOP. NAGAWARA MAIN ROAD, ARABIC COLLEGE POST. BENGALURU-560045.

4.b) SRI.THARUN KUMAR S/O LATE RAMACHNDRA VENKATESHPURA BUS STOP, NAGAWARA MAIN ROAD, ARABIC COLLEGE POST, BENGALURU-560045.

Appeal from the judgment and decree dated:31.03.2009 passed in OS No. 2773/2003 on the file of the XXII Addl. City Civil Judge, Bengaluru.

Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this court either in person or through Counsel duly instructed or through some one case you intend to contest the appeal. If you fail to appear, the same will authorized by law, to act for you in the above appeal **on 31.10.2025** in be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

Issued under my hand and the seal of this court, this the **10TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2025.**

BY ORDER OF THE COURT,
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -1, BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House
Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore -560 001

O.A. No.1090/2019

Between: Canara Bank, Peenya Branch, Bangalore - 560 058 . **...Applicant**
And
M/s. Rainbow Paint Products and Others ....Defendant

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT No. 1 & 2 UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993, BY PAPER PUBLICATION

To : 1. M/s. Rainbow Paint Products Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Narasima Murthy G., No. 14, 4th D Cross, Ramaiah Extension, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560 058.

2. Mr. Narasimha Murthy G., Proprietor of M/s. Rainbow Paint Products,No. 14, 4th D Cross, Ramaiah Extension, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560 058.

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of The Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the above defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.47,91,929.30** (Rupees Forty Seven Lakhs Ninety One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty Nine And Paise Thirty only) amount together with current and future interest, cost and other relief's.

Take notice that you are hereby required to show cause within 30 days of service of summons through Paper Publication on **09.01.2026 at 10.30 A. M.** in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief's prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **25.06.2026.**

By the Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar,
Debts Recovery Tribunal-1 , Bangalore

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1
AT BENGALURU
No. 1, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore- 560 001

O.A. No.1760/2023

Between: Canara Bank, Frazer Town Branch, Bengaluru **...Applicant**
And
Sri.Ranganath S. A & Another ...Defendants

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT No. 3 UNDER RULE 23(8) OF THE DRT PROCEDURE (REGULATION) RULES 1993

To: 1: Sri Ranganath S. A , S/o. Sri Ashwath, No. 122, 1st and 2nd Main Road, Near Oracle, A. K. Colony, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 029.

2. Smt. Bhagyashree M. H. W/o. Sri Ranganath S. A., No. 59, Near Meat Market, Mirza Layout, Hiriyur - 577 598 Chirtadurga District.

Whereas, the above named applicant has instituted an application against you under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Bankruptcy Act,1993 for the recovery of money due together with current and future interest from the date of filing of this application till payment with cost of this application. The above-named defendatns are therefore, hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an advocate or an authorised agent duly instructed to show cause within 30 days from from the date of this publication or on **12.05.2026 at 10.30 a.m.** as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand the seal of this Hon'ble Tribunal this the day of **14.10.2025**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -I Bangalore

Advocate for Applicant
Mohanadasa N., Advocate
No. 3944/A, 2nd Cross, 'B' Block,
Rajajingar 2nd Stage, Subramanyanagar,
Bangalore - 560 021,
Ph: 9886776714/9448729391

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1
AT BENGALURU
No. 1, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore- 560 001

O.A. No.226/2024

Between: Canara Bank, SME Branch, Whitefield, Bengaluru **...Applicant**
And
Sri Sivakumar Reddy P& Another ...Defendants

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(8) OF THE DRT PROCEDURE (REGULATION) RULES 1993

To: 1: Sri Sivakumar Reddy P., S/o. Sri P. V. Krishna Reddy, Proprietor, M/s. Vineeth Enterprises, No. 1526, 'D' Block, AECS Layout, ITPL Main Road, Kundalahalli, Bengaluru - 560 037.
Alternate Address : Residing at Flat No. 402, 'Sai Platinum', Opposite Kundalahalli Colony, ITPL Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 037.

2. Sri P. V. Subba Reddy, S/o. Sri P. V. Krishna Reddy, Flat No. 303, 'Mahaveer Classic', 1st Cross, Near Lakshmi Medicals, Venkatadri Layout, Sahyadri Layout, Panduranga Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 076

Whereas, the above named applicant has instituted an application against you under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Bankruptcy Act,1993 for the recovery of money due together with current and future interest from the date of filing of this application till payment with cost of this application. The above- named defendatns are therefore, hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an advocate or an authorised agent duly instructed to show cause within 30 days from from the date of this publication or on **17.12.2025 at 10.30 a.m.** as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand the seal of this Hon'ble Tribunal this the day of **15.07.2025**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -I Bangalore

Advocate for Applicant
Mohanadasa N.Advocate
No. 3944/A, 2nd Cross, 'B' Block,
Rajajingar 2nd Stage, Subramanyanagar,
Bangalore - 560 021,
Ph: 9886776714/9448729391

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TRY TO LEAVE THE EARTH A BETTER PLACE THAN WHEN YOU ARRIVED › SIDNEY SHELDON

QuoteExpress
NEVER COMPLAIN AND NEVER EXPLAIN
BENJAMIN DISRAELI

QuoteExpress
OPPORTUNITY DOES NOT KNOCK, IT PRESENTS ITSELF WHEN YOU BEAT DOWN THE DOOR › KYLE CHANDLER

Former Deputy CM KS Eshwarappa on Monday staunchly defended the RSS calling it an important organisation protecting the Hindu religion and asserting that "nobody can ban or restrict its activities in the country"

EXPRESS READ

VIRAJPET MLA PONNANNA SAYS KODAVAS MUST UNITE TO PROTECT GUN, CULTURAL RIGHTS

MADIKERI: The need to unite to protect gun rights and preserve the Kodava language of the community was highlighted by Virajpet MLA and CM's legal advisor AS Ponnanna. He was speaking after inaugurating the 10-day 'Changradhi Pattoladi' programme hosted by Kodava Samaja at T Shettigeri in South Kodagu. "The special gun rights of the Kodava community have been part of our culture since pre-independence and continued unabated until 2019. Kodavas and Jamma tenants enjoyed the exemption from the Arms act. However, this Act has been curtailed for a limited period of three years as per the new notification of the Central government. Kodava societies and organisations should be vigilant and work together to maintain this right permanently as before," opined Ponnanna. He explained that several legal battles have been fought earlier to protect the gun rights; however, the old notification was amended in 2019, limiting the rights to up till 2029. He opined that withdrawal of gun rights will affect the cultural practices of the community and will result in the community's downfall. **ENS**

Lingayat anger over Kaneri seer's remarks, protests across K'taka

'He has brought disgrace to the monastic order and hurt the sentiments of millions'

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

WIDESPREAD protests have erupted across Karnataka in the past eight days after **Adrushya Kadhasiddheshwar Swami**, head of Kaneri mutt in Kolhapur, allegedly made derogatory remarks against prominent Lingayat pontiffs and the Basava cultural campaign, sparking outrage across the community. Protests have broken out in taluks and smaller towns in the state.

The excuse offered that it was "his 'aaadu bhashe' since he hailed from North Karnataka" did not assuage the protesting Lingayat groups. The controversy began with the swami's October 9 address in Biluru village, Sangli district, where he reportedly mocked the Lingayat Mathadhishara Okkuta — a federation of over 300 Lingayat seers advocating recognition of Lingayatism as a separate faith — calling it a "nataka thanda drama troupe". His speech, laced with expletives and ridicule of Lingayat practices, went viral, provoking anger across social media and mutts.

Minister MB Patil and other Lingayat leaders have criticized the Kaneri pontiff, while other ministers have maintained a cautious silence. The remarks, described by community leaders as "unconstitutional and an insult to Basavanna's ideals", have led to protests in Vijayapura, Belagavi, Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Mangaluru, Bagalkot and Hungund, led by the Jagatik Lingayat Mahasabha (JLM), Basava Samiti and allied Basava organizations. Demonstrators burnt effigies and submitted memoranda to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot.

"Kadhasiddheshwar Swami has brought disgrace to the monastic order and hurt the sentiments of millions," said Nagratna Bhavikatti, JLM women's wing president. "If he doesn't apologise publicly, we will intensify our protests across Karnataka." In Vijayapura, hundreds had gathered at the deputy commissioner's office on October 14, demanding action. The administration invoked Section 163 BNS to ban the seer's entry into the district until December 14. The Karnataka High Court's Kalaburagi Bench upheld the ban on October 17, observing that "even ordinary citizens do not use such language".

The episode comes amid a renewed debate within the 17%-strong Lingayat community over demands for independent religious identity — an issue that has shaped Karnataka's political and cultural landscape for decades. As police maintain high alert in Lingayat-dominated districts, community leaders have warned that such unchecked rhetoric could deepen divisions within one of Karnataka's most influential communities.

Snapped electric cable kills couple in Honnavar

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS
@ Kasarkkod (Uttara Kannada)

A man and woman were electrocuted after coming into contact with a fallen overhead cable line in front of their house at Honnavar in Uttara Kannada district.

The deceased were identified as Santosh Gouda and his wife, Seetha. Santosh touched the 11 KV line that had fallen on to his house gate last evening. As he screamed for help, Seetha rushed in and beat him with a stick in an effort to free him.

"Hearing their screams, two youth from the neighbourhood rushed to the nearby Hescom control room and asked them to disconnect the power line. The power supply was disconnected for a few seconds and then was brought back. At that time Seetha touched Santosh thinking he was out of danger and in the process she too got electrocuted," said Rajesh Gouda, a neighbour. Their elder son, Nagraj, when tried to help his mother was flung a few yards away due to electric shock. The neighbours rushed the couple to a hospital where they were declared dead on arrival.

The villagers staged a dharna in the hospital blaming Hescom staff for the mishap and demanded action against the authorities. Honnavar Police Inspector Siddarameshwara said that a case of negligence has been lodged against the local lineman, AEE and those in the Control room.

"We will take forward the case after the Electrical Inspectorate visits the spot and gives a report," he said. Mankal Vaidya, Minister for Port and Fisheries, visited the family and consoled the grieving family members. He assured a fair investigation and compensation to the family. He has promised a job for Nagaraj and said would take care of educational expense of, the younger son, Raghavendra. Santosh, a daily wager in Honnavar, was a native of Kalasinamote. He had built a house on his wife's property and was living there with his family.

Non-BJP states are always short-changed, says Priyank

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FLOOD RELIEF

KARNATAKA RDPR and IT/BT Minister **Priyank Kharge** on Monday slammed the Union Government alleging that it has made it a "regular habit" to discriminate against the state, as the flood relief it has released is not sufficient given the huge losses reported.

On Sunday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had approved advance release of Rs 1,950.8 crore as the second installment of the Central share of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to Karnataka (Rs 384.4 crore) and to Maharashtra (Rs 1,556.4 crore) governments for 2025-26.

"They (Centre) stifle us by not giving funds, even though we are among the highest GST-collecting and highest IT payee states, and we are number one in information technology exports and contribute over 8.9% to the GDP. Yet, when it comes to devolution of funds and taxes, there is always unfair treatment towards Karnataka. Even now, as per the NDRF norms, what they have released is not enough, as we have reported huge losses. While the BJP-ruled states receive more, other states that are not with BJP or NDA are always shortchanged," Priyank said.

He also took a dig at the BJP for opposing the Karnataka government's socio-economic and educational survey and asked whether they will also oppose the Centre's survey in the future.

GRIT AND DETERMINATION

People trek up Deviramma Hill in the Chandra Drona range to offer prayers to Goddess Deviramma on the occasion of Naraka Chaturdashi, in Chikkamagaluru district, on Monday | PTI

Death in quarry: ₹10L compensation, job for widow, schooling for children

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

THE widow of a labourer, who was killed in a gelatin blast at a quarry running illegally in Kolar district, got Rs 10lakh in compensation, besides a job and help for her children to gain admission to a government school with a hostel.

Thanks to Upa Lokayukta Justice B Veerappa, who ensured she got compensation by fixing responsibility on both the owner of the mining firm as well as the authorities concerned for allowing quarrying using gelatin, in gross violation of rules at Karadubande Hosahalli in Kolar district. The Upa Lokayukta took suo motu action based on a media report dated May 26, 2023, on the tragic end of the labourer, Somu. The Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Superintendent of Police of Kolar and Director of Mines and Geology took up the case and responsibility for compensating the victim's family. When the case was taken up for hearing recently, they informed the Upa Lokayukta that the owner of the mining firm, Abdul Rehman, had agreed to pay Rs 10 lakh in compensation to the wife of the victim. Accordingly, he paid Rs 6 lakh through cheque and the remaining Rs 4 lakh by RTGS to Jyothibai, wife of Somu. They also informed that a criminal case had been registered over the tragedy, and was pending before the trial court in Kolar, and justice will be done to the dependents of the deceased, including his children.

The Assistant Commissioner undertook before the Upa Lokayukta that she will ensure proper education facilities to Somu's children, and a job will be provided through outsourcing in the social welfare department to his wife. Accordingly, the AC got a job for her in Raichur, and her children will be admitted to a government school with a hostel. The lease of the mining firm, AJ Stone Crushers, was suspended for violating norms. Recording the same, the Upa Lokayukta closed the complaint.

ONE MORE INCIDENT IN TUMAKURU

Ruing the lack of safety measures in mining sites, resulting in death, Upa Lokayukta Justice Veerappa registered one more suo motu complaint based on a media report dated September 18, 2025, on the tragic end of a lorry driver. Channakeshava (48) fell into a gorge while working at a Sri Krishna Crushers mine, which is allegedly running illegally near Eralagere in Tiptur taluk of Tumakuru district. His family members have alleged that he fell into the 80-foot gorge adjacent to the lorry route, as the mining firm did not construct a retaining wall. A complaint was registered against the Assistant Commissioner of Tiptur division, Tahsildar, Deputy SP, Deputy Director and senior geologist of Mines and Geology, Regional Transport Officer, Labour department officials and the local Panchayat Development Officer, for their inaction on complaints of villagers against the crusher violating norms.

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorised Officer of Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited (acting in capacity as Trustee for the below mentioned Trusts) (hereinafter referred to as "ARCIL") is incorporated under the companies Act, 1956 and registered as an Asset Reconstruction Company with the Reserve Bank of India of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of security interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "the SARFAESI Act") and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from the Original Lenders and whereas ARCIL has acquired the financial assets relating to the loan accounts mentioned herein below and whereas ARCIL being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act,and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons.

Sl. No.	LAN / Name of the Original Lender / Demand Notice Date / Name of the Trust:	Borrower / Co-Borrower Name / Guarantor	Total outstanding in Rs as per Demand Notice Dt: 30.06.2025
1	**LAN No:PR00827076, Original Lender: Small Business Fin Credit India Pvt Ltd, Demand Notice Dt: 31.07.2025, Name of the Trust: Arcil - 2025C - 010-Trust**	**1) Sri Sai Enterprises 2) Srikantha M 3) Suguna M**	**Rs 27,60,305/-**
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing CMC Katha No.2981/1/2981/433/A, Property No. 30-521-269, situated at DVM Colony, 22nd Ward, 4th Division, Devanahalli Town, Banalore Rural District-562110 measuring East to West: 7.924816 mtrs (26feet) and North to South: 17.678435 (58feet) totally admeasuring: 140.097724 Sq mtrs (1508 Sq.feet) and **bounded on East:** Vacant Site, **West:** Road, **North:** Property belongs to Narasihma, **South:** Property belongs to Munikrishnappa.		
2	**LAN No: PR00971357, Original Lender: Small Business Fin Credit India Pvt Ltd, Demand Notice Dt: 11.08.2025, Name of the Trust: Arcil - 2025C - 010-Trust**	**1) Sri Patalamma Centring Works 2) N Srinivas 3) N Jaya Lakshmi 4) Munishamappa**	**Rs 27,02,381/-**
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.3,Katha NO.1219 in Sy No.267/1, 267/7, 267/1A, 268/2,converted vide Official Memorandum dated: 06.02.1989 bearing No. BDIS.ALN.SR(N) 86/1988-89 ISSUED BY Deputy Commissioner , Bangalore District, Hesaragatta Village Panchayath, Dhakale No.1219, situated at Hesaragatta Hobli, Banglore North Taluk, measuring : East to West: 60 feet and North to South: 40 feet and **bounded on the East:** Land belongs to Simkempaiah, **West:** Road, **North:** Site No.2, **South:** Site No.4.		
3	**LAN No: PR00886821 & Pr00974634 Original Lender: Small Business Fin Credit India Pvt Ltd, Demand Notice Dt: 11.08.2025, Name of the Trust: Arcil - 2025C - 010-Trust**	**1) MRS Military Hotel 2) Anand SM 3) Bhagyamma C**	**Rs 21,76,941/-**
	Description of the Property: All that Piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 182, Sy.No. 396 and measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 40 feet totally 1200 sft situated at Rayasandra Bettakote Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli, Bengaluru Rural and **bounded on the East:** Road, **West:** C.M.Nagaraju's Property, **North:** Private Property, **South:** Private Property.		
4	**LAN No: PR01007861, Original Lender: Small Business Fin Credit India Pvt Ltd, Demand Notice Dt: 31.07.2025, Name of the Trust: Arcil - 2025C - 010-Trust**	**1) Bismilla Birayani Center 2) Imran N 3) Muskan K**	**Rs 18,97,846/-**
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the Propety bearing No. TMC No. 25-521-362, and Katha No.265/47/256, situated at DVM Colony, 4th Division, Ward No .22, Devanahalli Town, Bangalore Rural District measuring East to West: 10.70336 mtrs and North to South: 24.46483 mtrs totally admesuring 260.12634 sq.mtrs and **bounded on East:** Site belongs to Lakshamma, **West:** Road, **North:** Site belongs to Kariyappa, **South:** Road		
5	**LAN No: PR00418877 & Pr00568808, Original Lender: Small Business Fin Credit India Pvt Ltd, Demand Notice Dt: 31.07.2025, Name of the Trust: Arcil - 2025C - 010-Trust**	**1) Geetha S 2) Srinivas S**	**Rs 39,24,949/-**
	Description of the Property: All that the piece and parcel of immovable Residential Property in House No. 31, present BBMP Khatha No. 1249, Puttenahalli Village, Present BBMP Ward No. 187, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, mesuring East to West: 27 feet, North to South: 21 feet total measuring 567 sq.feet with a house constructed on Ground floor , First Floor & Second Floor with RCC roofing and **bounded on the East:** Road, **West:** House belongs to Krishaippa, **North:** House belongs to Rajappa, **South:** Road		
6	**LAN No: PR00876167, Original Lender: Small Business Fin Credit India Pvt Ltd, Demand Notice Dt: 11.08.2025, Name of the Trust: Arcil - 2025C - 010-Trust**	**1) Venkateswara Flower Decoration 2) Nagesh H.T 3) Tulasi**	**Rs 19,06,271/-**
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the Property No. 663/1, Katha No.663/1, PID No.150200203000222311, measuring East to West: 17.0688 mtrs North to South: 10.972 mtrs total measuring: 155.33 sq mtrs situated at Hesaraghatta Village, Hesaraghatta Gram Panchayath, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-560088 and **bounded on the East:** Property belongs to Linganna and Munidoddaiah, **West:** Property belongs to Munithimmaigh, **North :** Road, **South:** Road.		
7	**LAN No: PR00910803, Original Lender: Small Business Fin Credit India Pvt Ltd, Demand Notice Dt: 11.08.2025, Name of the Trust: Arcil - 2025C - 010-Trust**	**1) Sri Vinayaka Silks and Twisting Factory 2) Ambarisha M 3) Rathnamma M**	**Rs 18,83,894/-**
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing CMC KATHA NO.4513/2469, Ward No. 4, measuring: East to West: 26 feet and North to South: 32 feet totally measuring 832 sft situated at Kacheripalya, Doddaballapura Nagara, Bangalore Rural District and **bounded on East:** Property belongs to Narayanaswamy, **West:** Proeprty belongs to Shanthamma, **North:** Property belongs to Narasamma and 5ft wide road, **South:** Property belongs to Muninarasappa.		
8	**LAN No: PR00615715, Original Lender: Small Business Fin Credit India Pvt Ltd, Demand Notice Dt: 31.07.2025, Name of the Trust: Arcil - 2025C - 010-Trust**	**1) Sachindra Nanjundappa 2) Sharadamma C**	**Rs 16,25,233/-**
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing site No. 18, Katha No. 441,situated at Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore and **bounded on East:** Property No.17 belongs to Mohan Kumar, **West:** Property No.16 belongs to Krishnappa, **North:** Road, **South:** Property belongs to Kempe Gowda, Measuring East to West: 30ft and North to South: 40ft.		
9	**LAN No: PR00668812 & PR00825643, Original Lender: Small Business Fin Credit India Pvt Ltd, Demand Notice Dt: 11.08.2025, Name of the Trust: Arcil - 2025C - 010-Trust**	**1) Babu Bedding House 2) Rahamath Babu 3) Soffia Rahamath**	**Rs 23,25,826/-**
	Description of the Property: All the part and parcel propery bearing No.45/26 CMC, Katha No.11/2A, Byatarayanapura, Lottegollahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore 560094 measuring: East to West: 24 feet & North to South: 53 feet, total=1272 sft and **bounded on East:** Remaining Portion of the same property, **West:** Site No.44, **North:** Site No. 54, **South:** Road		
10	**LAN No: PR00974683, Original Lender: Small Business Fin Credit India Pvt Ltd, Demand Notice Dt: 11.08.2025, Name of the Trust: Arcil - 2025C - 010-Trust**	**1) Paramesha M 2) Ashwini N 3) Shivalingamma M**	**Rs 16,54,230/-**
	Description of the Property: All that piec and parcel for Property bearing No.61, Katha No. 130/P 18, measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 30 feet situated at Byalakere Village, Kasaghattapura Grama Panchayath, Hesaraghatta hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore and **bounded on East:** Property No.56, **West:** 25 feet Road, **North:** Property No.60, **South:** Property No.62.		
11	**LAN No: PR00992270, Original Lender: Small Business Fin Credit India Pvt Ltd, Demand Notice Dt: 31.07.2025, Name of the Trust: Arcil - 2025C - 010-Trust**	**1) Sri Lakshmi Venkateswara Provision Stores 2) Manjunatha N 3) Joythi D C**	**Rs 16,78,569/-**
	Description of the Property: All the piece and parcel of the Property No.17-501-46A, TMC Nirdharana No.147/413/390, measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South 55 feet, totally admeasuring: 1650 Sft situated at Ward No.8, Sree Dharmarayaswamy Temple Road, 2nd Division, Devanahalli Town, Bangalore Rural District and **bounded on East:** Property belongs to Channarayappa, **West:** 15feet wide road. **North:** Property belongs to Pillappa, **South:** 15feet wide Road		
12	**LAN No: PR00959476, Original Lender: Small Business Fin Credit India Pvt Ltd, Demand Notice Dt: 11.08.2025, Name of the Trust: Arcil - 2025C - 010-Trust**	**1) HKGN Silk Twisting Factory 2) Ameen Pasha 3) Harshiya Firdous**	**Rs 15,98,170/-**
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Survey No.146,PID No. 10-523-107, Khatha No.456, measuring: East to West: 21.334959mtrs (70ft) and North to South: 9.1435538 (30ft)= Total measuring 195.09476 mtrs total measuring: 2100 sq.ft situated at 3rd Division, Islam Nagar, Mandibele Road, Vijayapura Town, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District - 562135 and **bounded on East:** Own Property, **West:** Multiple Road, **North:** Property belongs to Muniyappa, **South:** Road.		

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, ARCIL shall be constrained to take u/s 13(4) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above,steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder.You are put to notice that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by Arcil at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act.Take note that in terms of S-13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd., (In capacity as Trustee)

Place : Bangalore
Date : 21.10.2025

Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd.,
CIN - U65999MH2002PLC134884, Website : www.arcil.co.in
Registered Office : The Ruby, 10th Floor, 29 Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (West), Mumbai – 400 028. **Tel :** +91 2266581300
Branch Office: Vishishta Arcade No. 2243, 4th Floor, 23rd Cross, K.R.Road, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560070. **Office No.:** 08951936891

PUBLIC NOTICE

This to notify the general public that our clients have negotiated to purchase properties more fully described in **the "SCHEDULE PROPERTIES"** as here under written, from its **LAWFUL OWNER** i.e. **Mr. MAHINDER SINGH,** S/o. Mr. Gopilal, Aged about 47 years, R/at # No.9587/10, Gaw Shala, Baradari, Kamla Nagar, Malka Ganj Post, North Delhi-110007. **(Aadhaar No.6766-2463-8199).** He has represented to be the owner in absolute possession, enjoyment and ownership of the **"SCHEDULE PROPERTIES"** and he has also entered into registered sale agreement with one **Mr. VARUN GOWDA. R,** S/o. Mr. Rajanna R under Agreement of Sale dated **18-10-2024** and registered as document No.**DBP-1-10263/2024-25,** dated **19-10-2024,** in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Doddaballapura for sale lands morefully mentioned in Item Nos.1, 2 and 4 of the **"SCHEDULE PROPERTIES".**

Any person/s or minors, institution/s, authorities, claiming any right, title and interest or having any objection in our client proceeding to finalise, the sale transaction, may do so by lodging his/her/its/their claim/objection in writing supported with documents **within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice,** failing which it shall be presumed that nobody has got any claims over the schedule property and our client shall proceed to finalise the transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

All the piece and parcel of Uncultivated immovable property being the agricultural lands morefully mentioned below all are Situated at Devanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

Sl. Nos.	Old Sy. Nos	New Sy. Nos	Extent Acres	Extent Guntas	East by	West by	North by	South by
1.	64	64/4	00	13.08	Land belonging to Papanna	Land belonging to Appajappa	Land belonging to Lakshmamma	Road
2.	64	64/5	00	06.12	Land belonging to Papanna	Land belonging to Appajappa	Land belonging to Lakshmamma	Road
3.	64	64/6	00	06.12	Land in SY.No.64/5	Land in SY.No.64/7	Land belonging to Lakshmamma	Road
4.	64	64/7	00	07.00	Land belonging to Kempamma	Land belonging to Appajappa	Land belonging to Narayanamma	Kaluve

GLS Law Partners
Advocates & Solicitors
Address: No.5C-338, 2nd Floor, 3rd A Main Road, 5th Cross Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kammanahalli, Bangalore – 560043
Contact: +91-9916628604, Email: glslawpartners@gmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrowers(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	**31879630000720**	**1) Mr. Venkatarathnam, 2) Mrs. Narayanamma, 3) Mr. Venkatesh**	**24.07.2025 Rs.9,89,776.82** (Rupees Nine Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Six and Eighty Two Paisa Only) **due as on 17-07-2025**	**Date: 16.10.2025 Time: 05:55 PM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the Eastern portion of Site No.419, Khatha No.18/419, Formed in Sy.No.18, Measuring East to West 15 feet and North to South 22 feet, in all measuring 330 Sq.feet, situated at Kammagondanahalli Village, Jarakabande Kaval Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, presently within the Limits of BBMP and **Bounded on the: East by:** Remaining same property number belongs to Mr. Ravanaiah, **West by:** Property belongs to Manohar, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Road.			
2	**46989630000461 & 46989410000487**	**1) Mrs. Radhamma M, 2) Mr. Kempanna**	**23.07.2025 Rs.7,97,867.50** (Rupees Seven Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Seven and Fifty Paisa Only) **due as on 17-07-2025**	**Date: 16.10.2025 Time: 01:11 PM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of the Property: All the piece and parcel of the property bearing E-Khatha No.98/312, ID No.150300302701300074' in Sy.No.153/1, situated at Melekote, Mandal Panchayat, Goolyanandigunda Village, Toobagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk **Bounded on the (as E-Katha Form 1I-B): East by:** Property of Krishnappa, **West by:** Government School Building, **North by:** Government Road, **South by:** Property of Krishnappa. Measuring (as E-Katha) East to West: 10.0584 Meters and North to South: 14.6304 Meters, in all Measuring 147.16 Sq.feet.			
3	**46459430000101 & 46459410001074**	**1) Mr. Narasimhaiah, Also at: M/s. Flower and Vegetable Business, 2) Mrs. Vijaya V**	**08.08.2025 Rs.9,65,826.93** (Rupees Nine Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Six and Ninety Three Paisa Only) **due as on 05-08-2025**	**Date: 17.10.2025 Time: 01:53 PM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing No.71, Sl.No.66, Situated at Ganjarahalli Village, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Presently comes under the limits of Shivanapura Village Panchayath and **Bounded on the: East by:** Road, **West by:** House of Lakshmaiah, **North by:** Road, **South by:** House of Sundaramma. Measuring East to West 32 Feet and North to South 44 Feet.			
4	**46459630000693 & 46459410000236**	**1) Mr. Gangaiah C, 2) Mrs. Manjula N**	**04.08.2025 Rs.8,47,191.60** (Rupees Eight Lakh Forty Seven Thousand One Hundred Ninety One and Sixty Paisa Only) **due as on 03-08-2025**	**Date: 17.10.2025 Time: 01:18 PM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.157/30, Katha ID No.150300400901020050 situated at Appasandra Village, Hosakote Block, Bangalore Rural District, Presently comes under the limits of Doddanallala Gram Panchayath and **Bounded by the: East by:** 27, **West by:** Road, **North by:** 31, **South by:** 29. Measuring East to West: 12.192 Mtr and North to South: 9.144 Mtrs, in all measuring 111.48 Sq.mtrs.			

Whereas the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bangalore & Bangalore Rural	Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Date: 21.10.2025	For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

Renowned sculptor Chandrashekhar Y Shilpi of Kalaburagi has been selected for the National Handicraft Award-2024 instituted by Ministry of Textiles. A recipient of the Rajyotsava Award, Shilpi earned national recognition for his intricately carved wooden door

Murmu's Sabarimala visit on Oct 22 set to be historic

She will be the first President to reach shrine by road, security up

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Pathanamthitta

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu's visit to Sabarimala on October 22 is poised to become a historic one, as she is likely to be the first President to reach the Sannidhanam by road. If the President travels to the temple by vehicle, she will become the first VVIP pilgrim to reach Sannidhanam by road. In 1973, then President V V Giri arrived at Sabarimala using a dolly service.

According to sources, the first citizen will travel in a special Force Gurkha vehicle, in view of health conditions and security constraints in the hilly terrain. The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) and police have intensified preparations and security arrangements ahead of the high-profile visit.

According to Travancore Devaswom Board president P S Prasanth, arrangements have been completed at Nilakkal, Pampa, and Sannidhanam, and pilgrim entry will remain unaffected till October 21. Regular darshan will continue even on the day of the President's visit, though Special Protection Group (SPG) protocols will be in force.

The President, who will arrive at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport on Tuesday evening as part of her four-day Kerala visit, will fly to Nilakkal by helicopter on Wednesday morning. She is expected to reach Nilakkal by 10.20 a.m. From there, she will proceed to Pampa by road and then travel to Sannidhanam.

Murmu will have darshan at the Ayyappa temple between 11.55 a.m. and 12.25 p.m. and return to Thiruvananthapuram by evening. Though no official communication has been released regarding the President's personal religious observances, sources in the Travancore Devaswom Board said standard temple protocol for dignitaries will be followed at Sabarimala including carrying Irumudikkettu, wearing black dress, and possible holy dip in Pamba river.

Murmu will reach Sannidhanam in a convoy of five four-wheel-drive vehicles and an ambulance via the Swami Ayyappan Road and the traditional trekking path.Security arrangements have already been strengthened, and a rehearsal of the convoy movement was held recently, TDB officials said. Prasanth said the temple has recorded a relatively low pilgrim turnout in recent days. "Around 25,000 devotees per day are expected to have darshan before the President's arrival. Usual security checks will continue, but there will be no major restrictions for pilgrims till the 21st," he said. From October 22, Special Protection Group (SPG) protocols will be in force, but darshan will not be completely blocked.

Final security rehearsals will be carried out at Nilakkal, Pampa and Sannidhanam before the visit. As part of the drill, security personnel will conduct a trial run of the Force Gurkha vehicle along the Pampa-Sannidhanam route with the assigned security team on board. Police have already carried out detailed security inspections in the pilgrim centres.

SIT TO SUBMIT FIRST REPORT ON SABARIMALA CASE TO KERALA HC

Pathanamthitta: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the loss of gold from Sabarimala is expected to file its first progress report to the Kerala High Court soon, police sources said on Monday. The division bench of Justices Raja Vijayaraghavan and KV Jayakumar will hear the case again on Tuesday. Sources told PTI that the SIT plans to submit the report on the same day. Officials said the report will cover the current status of the investigation, including the arrest of Bengaluru-based Unnikrishnan Potty, who sponsored the electroplating of gold-clad copper plates on the Dwarapalaka (guardian deity) idols and Sreekovil (sanctum sanctorum)door frames in 2019. It will also detail the investigation carried out at Chennai, where the plates were electroplated, sources said. The High Court, while assigning the case to the SIT, had directed the team to file a progress report within two weeks and set a six-week deadline to complete the probe. The SIT has registered two cases related to gold missing from the plates of Dwarapalaka idols and Sreekovil door frames. As many as 10 persons have been arraigned as accused in both cases, including Potty and the Travancore Devaswom Board officials. SIT is expected to interrogate other accused persons soon.

TN villages show the world real 'green' Deepavali

AGENCIES @ Chennai

AS most cities in India, including Delhi, woke up to toxic air on Deepavali, with the city's air quality index (AQI) slipping to 'very poor', a handful of villages in Tamil Nadu are showing to the world how celebration of a festival can benefit from a mindful approach.

In Vettangudipatti village in Sivaganga district, for instance, this has been the case for nearly 50 years now.

'These villagers decided not to burst crackers to safeguard migratory birds," Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Tamil Nadu government, told PTI.

With the debate over 'green' crackers reaching a fevered pitch in the days leading up to Deepavali, Sahu's post on X, and the accompanying video made by the Forest Department documenting Vettangudi's journey, showed the world a silence that spoke volumes.

In the video, one of the villagers, 78-year-old Arumugam, said the birds started coming to their village in 1972.

Sahu said 36.89 hectares surrounding the village, comprising three interconnected irrigation tanks, was declared Vettangudi Bird Sanctuary in 1977.

Even before the government started its conservation efforts, Arumugam said they realised the significance of the birds.

'Our elders started noticing a pattern: when the birds visited us, we received good rainfall and prospered and when they didn't, we suffered because of lack of rains,' Arumugam explained in the video.

PRAYER TIME

A large number of people gather to offer prayers at the Bhagya Laxmi Temple during Deepavali, in Hyderabad, on Monday | PTI

EXPRESS READ

Tamil Nadu reports 89 burn injuries on Deepavali day

Chennai: So far 89 people have been injured across the state due to firecracker-related incidents during Deepavali celebrations, said Tamil Nadu Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Ma Subramanian on Monday. The minister was speaking to reporters after inspecting the burn treatment wards of the Kilpauk Medical College. 'Of these, 41 people have received treatment and are at home and 48 are currently receiving treatment,' he said. According to him, 32 injured underwent major surgery. 'But so far, major incidents involving deaths have not been reported.'

Andhra CM announces Deepavali bonanza for govt staff, including DA

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has announced a set of benefits for government employees as part of the Diwali bonanza, including release of one Dearness Allowance from November 1. The chief minister said that the state government will incur an expenditure of Rs 160 crore per month towards Dearness Allowance (DA). "As part of the Diwali festival package, we are releasing one installment of the Dearness Allowance to employees from November 1," said Naidu in an official release late on Saturday.

Banned manja kite string hurts 3-yr-old in neck

ENS @ Belagavi

A shocking incident at Shahapur in Belagavi on Sunday evening left a three-year-old girl seriously injured after a kite string, believed to be the banned Chinese manja, got entangled around her neck. The child, who was travelling with her parents on a two-wheeler to the market, sustained deep neck injuries and is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital. Doctors say that while her condition is serious, a major tragedy has fortunately been averted.

Despite the strict ban on the sale and use of Chinese manja, it continues to be sold openly across the city. Over the past few years, at least three to four people have lost their lives in similar incidents. Just last week, a two-wheeler rider suffered severe injuries after being hit by manja near the central bus stand. The injured girl, a resident of Vadgaon, was travelling with her parents to Shahapur around 7 pm on Sunday. As they rode along the road behind the Shahapur police station, a kite string suddenly slashed across the road and wrapped tightly around the child's neck. The parents immediately rushed her to a nearby private hospital, where she was admitted for urgent medical care.

'Delay in lunch, giving gifts'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"THE incident occurred because of the delay in serving lunch and distributing gifts. Women fell ill because of dehydration. Three women were given intravenous fluids, while others were discharged. All are out of danger," a police source said. Those who attended the event said there was no proper drinking water facility, while many women who had brought their children struggled, they said.

HEAVY RAIN LASHES KERALA

AGENCIES @T'puram

INTERMITTENT heavy rain accompanied by strong winds lashed several parts of Kerala causing inundation, uprooting of trees and traffic snarls.

The high ranges of southern Thiruvananthapuram and northern Kozhikode and Kannur districts experienced widespread rains and overcast climate throughout the day.

Heavy downpour that lasted for nearly an hour caused waterlogging in Thiruvananthapuram-Thenkasi road. Road traffic was interrupted in Elavattom in Palode road also for some time due to inundation in the evening. In Kannur, flood water entered in the premises of some houses. A wall reportedly collapsed upon a house.

Houses were damaged in lightening in Mala in Thrissur district and Elanji in Ernakulam. Walls developed cracks and electric equipment damaged in such incidents, local people said.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an orange alert in four districts -Ernakulam, Idukki, Malappuram and Kozhikode - predicting very heavy rainfall. The rest of the districts were placed under a yellow alert. In the wake of heavy rain, the SDMA asked people living in areas prone to landslides, mudslides, and flash floods to move to safer locations as directed by officials concerned

Parts of TN to receive over 100mm rain

Chennai: While parts of Tamil Nadu are likely to receive heavy rainfall of over 100mm, light to moderate rain accompanied by thunderstorm and lightning is expected at isolated places in the state on Deepavali day, the India Meteorological Department said. A low pressure is likely to form over the Southeast Bay of Bengal around October 21, the IMD bulletin had warned on Sunday. Rainfall in the range of 64.5mm to 111.5mm likely over parts of Erode, Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Dindigul, Virudhunagar, Sivaganga, Karaikal, Mayiladuthurai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Cuddalore and Nagapattinam, it said. PTI

Crocodile spotted in Netravathi river

Mangaluru: A crocodile was spotted on Sunday in the vicinity of the Netravathi river, which flows in front of the Sangama Kshetra Sri Pajiradka Sadashiveshwara temple at Kalmanja village. Near the temple, the Mrityunjaya River merges with the Netravati river. Around 10 am on Sunday, those at the temple observed a crocodile swimming in the river which had a good flow with muddy water. Later, the crocodile was seen resting on a sandbank on the other side of the river. ENS

Valmiki Samaj holds stir in Gokak, seeks Katti's arrest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

A massive protest was staged by hundreds of members of the Valmiki Samaj on Monday at Basaveshwar Circle in Gokak, demanding the arrest of former MP Ramesh Katti in connection with his alleged derogatory remarks about the Valmiki community in the run-up to the recently-held Belagavi DCC Bank elections.

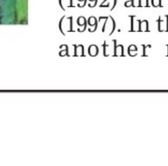
The protesters expressed outrage by placing a garland of slippers on Katti's portrait and later setting it on fire, condemning his alleged casteist comments.

Valmiki Samaj leaders who had arrived in large numbers gathered at Basaveshwar Circle and expressed anger, condemning the statement of former MP Ramesh Katti. Speaking at the protest, Belagavi District Valmiki Community President Rajshekhar Talawar said that Ramesh Katti, being a person holding a responsible position, should have exercised restraint and awareness about his words. "It is unacceptable for someone in such a position to make demeaning remarks about the ST community," he said, lashing out at the former MP. He added that Katti's comments had deeply hurt the sentiments of the Valmiki community and could lead to tensions among various communities, thereby disturbing law and order in the state. "If Ramesh Katti is not arrested immediately, the Valmiki and other backward communities will call for a Belagavi bandh on the 24th of this month," Talawar warned.

Pinarayi: Kerala will lose its identity if BJP-RSS gains prominence

AGENCIES @ KANNUR

KERALA Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** here on Monday said Kerala would lose its unique identity if the BJP and RSS gained prominence in the state.



Speaking after inaugurating a CPI(M) office building here, Vijayan cautioned people against the rise of the Sangh Parivar's ideology and urged them to remain vigilant. Referring to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent remarks in Kochi that the BJP would secure 25 per cent votes in the upcoming local body polls and a majority in the subsequent elections, Vijayan said the people of Kerala should treat such claims seriously.

"If the ideology represented by the RSS gains strength here, Kerala will not remain the same. Today we have the freedom to wear what we want, eat as we wish and worship anywhere. In states where the RSS has dominance, people are attacked and even killed over what they eat or wear," he said.

Vijayan alleged that the Sangh Parivar was attempting to distort Kerala's culture and communal harmony by interfering in religious traditions, including Sabarimala. "Along with Lord Ayyappa, Vavar also has a place in Sabarimala's tradition.

But the Sangh Parivar cannot tolerate that a Muslim holds such a position, and hence they try to misrepresent Vavar's identity," he said.

According to legends Vavar is the Muslim companion of Lord Ayyappa. Devotees reach Sabarimala via Erumely, where Vavar's mosque is located.

FIRST SIGHTING IN V'NAGARA

Rare Indian scops owl spotted near Daroji sanctuary

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR
@ Hosapete

IN a rare and remarkable discovery, birdwatchers have recorded the first-ever sighting of the Indian scops owl near the Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary in Vijayanagara. The nocturnal bird, known for its distinct ear-like tufts and exceptional camouflage, was identified earlier this week by birdwatchers Sabyasachi Roy, Sridhar Perumal, and Pompayya Malemath, who confirmed the species after close visual and auditory inspection.

Roy said that bird measuring approximately 20 to 25 cm in length. The bird is a small-sized owl species that blends effortlessly into its surroundings. With a greyish body and dark eyes, its cryptic appearance makes it notoriously difficult to spot during daylight. The bird was detected by its distinctive call a giveaway to its otherwise hidden presence.

Malemath, from Hampi, said this is the first recorded sighting of the indian scops owl in this region, and it opens up new avenues for ornithological study in and around the sanctuary. Experts believe the presence of the owl in this habitat which primarily supports sloth bears and other endemic wildlife could indicate a wider ecological range than previously assumed. Further studies are expected to assess whether the Indian scops owl has established a breeding population in the area or if this sighting was a rare migratory occurrence.

The Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary, already noted for its biodiversity, is now drawing attention from avian researchers and wildlife enthusiasts eager to learn more about this new addition to the region's fauna. Wildlife authorities and conservationists have welcomed the discovery, noting that such sightings underscore the importance of continued conservation efforts and habitat protection in lesser explored regions of Karnataka.

Scops owl | EXPRESS

'Some of his notable work as supporting actor is Parichay'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SOME of his memorable work as a supporting actor includes *Parichay* (1972), *Abhimaan* (1973), *Roti* (1974), *Chupke Chupke* (1975) and *Chhoti Si Baat* (1975).

Asrani made his directorial debut with the comedy-drama Chala Murari Hero Banne in 1977. He also helmed the romantic-drama Dil Hi To Hai (1992) and the actioner, Udaan (1997). In the 2000s, Asrani saw another resurgence as he starred in popular comedy films like Hera Pheri, Chup Chup Ke, Hulchul, Deewane Hue Pagal, Malamal Weekly and Welcome. His last appearance was in Non-stop Dhamaal (2023).

From the simple sincerity of Hrishikesh Mukherjee's middle-class comedies to the grand spectacle of Sholay and the madcap chaos of Priyadarshan's films, Asrani remained an actor dedicated to keeping his craft rooted in truth.

EDITORIAL

The generation that destroys the environment is not the generation that pays the price. That is the problem

Wangari Maathai

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

DATA CENTRE GROWTH NEEDS POWER, POLICY AND WATER REFORM

GOOGLE'S $15-billion plan to build a one-gigawatt AI data centre in Visakhapatnam marks a new phase in the digital race. The hub promises to bring together data storage, renewable energy, and fibre connectivity—all in one place. It also fits into India's strategic need to localise data storage as deep digitisation, 5G expansion, and AI adoption drive an unprecedented data surge.

The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 requires local storage of citizens' data. Yet, despite its growing digital footprint, most of India's data still resides abroad. By one estimate, India generates nearly 20 percent of global data but can store barely three percent. Closing this gap is critical—not only for economic growth but also for national security and digital sovereignty.

Localised storage gives India greater control over its data economy, protects citizens' privacy, and improves performance. Infrastructure placed closer to users sharply reduces latency, enhancing digital payments, streaming, and enterprise services.

However, bottlenecks threaten this ambition. The industry points to high power costs, a maze of over 40 approvals, dependence on costly telco fibre, and the absence of specialised building codes. A project that should take 18 months to complete often takes two and a half years just to break ground.

India needs a clear, cohesive national policy for data centres. A single-window clearance system can eliminate delays. Operators must be allowed to build their own fibre networks. A nationwide open-access power policy can unlock cheaper, greener energy. And incentives must push development into Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, creating a distributed, resilient digital backbone.

Another concern looms—water. Data centres are thirsty, consuming vast quantities for cooling. With many Indian cities already water-stressed, unchecked expansion could spark a sustainability crisis. The answer lies in advanced cooling technologies and wastewater recycling—as vital as regulatory reform or power access.

India's digital future depends as much on smart governance and resource management as it does on AI and algorithms. The next phase of growth will hinge not just on data, but on how wisely we power and cool it.

POLITICS, NOT FAITH, FUELS HIJAB ROW IN KERALA

IN a state known for its literacy, secular ethos, and social harmony, the hijab row in Kerala stands out as an avoidable and unfortunate flare-up. What began as a simple disagreement between a school and a parent over the dress code has been blown out of proportion, thanks to political grandstanding and communal noise.

The incident occurred at a convent-run school in Kochi, where a Class 8 student turned up in a hijab. Teachers asked her to follow the prescribed uniform. A few days later, she returned in the same attire, this time accompanied by her father and others who insisted on her right to wear it. The confrontation led the school to close temporarily and seek police protection.

What could have been quietly resolved through dialogue quickly turned into a political spectacle. Congress leaders rushed in to announce a 'compromise' without taking all parties into confidence. The truce might still have held had Education Minister V Sivankutty not publicly criticised the school, paving the way for religious organisations to step in. Muslim groups began demanding that hijab be permitted in all educational institutions, while church bodies accused the government of siding with "communal elements". One Muslim outfit even launched a campaign to identify schools restricting religious attire. With tempers rising, the student eventually withdrew from the school.

Kerala has long prided itself on its secular and syncretic traditions, where people of different faiths coexist with mutual respect. That legacy must not be undermined by identity politics or misplaced zeal. The hijab, like any other symbol of faith, need not be demonised—but institutions have the right to enforce a uniform once it has been accepted by students and parents. The Kerala High Court in 2018 upheld that right, and the Karnataka High Court in 2022 ruled that wearing a hijab is not an essential religious practice in Islam. Defying agreed norms in such a setting is not an assertion of faith—it is a challenge to institutional order.

The student's right to education is inviolable, but so too is the school's responsibility to maintain discipline and inclusivity. This controversy, inflated by vested interests, serves neither. Kerala's political and religious leaders would do well to de-escalate rather than exploit such issues. Preserving the state's hard-won secular balance demands restraint, dialogue, and maturity—not divisive rhetoric over a school uniform.

QUICK TAKE

DUMMY FOR DUMMIES

IMAGINE impairing a child's growth from the very beginning. Studies have found bisphenol A, or BPA, an industrial chemical found in plastics that's linked to troubled sexual growth, cancer and obesity, in baby dummies or pacifiers by big European brands. The compound can also affect infants' brain and prostate, and affect behaviour. India's food safety watchdog, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, again issued a draft proposal to ban BPA from food packaging material last week. Not only should it be taken up seriously, but its use in dummies for babies should be strictly barred, too. The least we can do is give a newborn a fighting chance at a healthy life.

Once again, the media showcases Bengaluru and its infrastructure problems in depth. The city and its rain and its battered infrastructure make for good news of the bad kind

POTHOLES, POLITICS AND PUBLIC'S PATIENCE

HARISH BIJOOR

Brand guru & founder of Harish Bijoor Consults Inc

SOURAV ROY

THIS one is for the city I love. This one is for the city I live in as well. Bengaluru.

After every bout of heavy rain, Bengaluru gets battered. Both physically and metaphorically. Many arterial roads get flooded. Traffic jams are the norm. Tarred roads develop potholes with water accumulation. That exposes the shoddy work in building the roads. Heavy rain is the best auditor of good or bad road works. Dirty linen gets washed as well. Every political party gets blamed. Band-aid solutions to patch up potholes temporarily get ripped off, creating newer and bigger potholes.

Traffic flow on the battered roads slows down further, and commute time prolongs excruciatingly. Tempers rise, road rage becomes the norm, and motorists break every breakable rule to rush home. People will drive on footpaths and service roads, and on the wrong side of traffic flow. In the bargain, a bus or two will go off the roads, mishaps will be dubbed pothole accidents, and nothing short of chaos rules the roads. Those stuck in cars will enjoy the luxury of wasted time to log onto their social media handles and vent their ire. Those without this luxury will brave it out on the roads under flyovers and shelters of every kind, further slowing down traffic flow. The younger ones will float their memes, and collectively, Bengaluru becomes one big meme during the season of the big rain.

We are just out of one such big meme season. Once again, every television channel has showcased Bengaluru and its infrastructure problems in depth. I am guilty of having been on many of them. Bengaluru and its rain and its battered infrastructure make for good news of the bad kind. Social media has been equally full of noise and fervour. The opposition parties have pitched in their bit. And when the opposition makes the noise, everyone, including the noise makers, forgets that they have been equally responsible for the city's state of affairs. Every political party that has ruled Karnataka over the last 15 years has been responsible for this. No government, of any of the three political colours, can claim to be different, though they do so. The can of responsibility is of course held by the Congress party headed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, who is the Bengaluru development minister as well.

This time round, we need to add yet another dimension to the fracas. The debate has turned out to be about "corporate honchos" versus "those in governance" of Bengaluru. The last few days have seen heated exchanges of a very civil kind (remember, Karnataka is a very civil state where even our fights are dignified, discussed, and debated). Our energetic and passionate DCM Shivakumar has come out saying that people must not criticise and must participate in finding solutions instead.The objection is that any criticism of Bengaluru or its infrastructure is seen as harming investor confidence in the city and state. And right then, coincidentally so, Google announced its mega investment in Visakhapatnam. The environment is, therefore, sensitive and bristling.

Let me take a look at what's so different this time round as the rains subside and the corporate honcho versus government of Karnataka debate is on the front burner. It all began with a post on X by Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, showcasing a question by an overseas visitor as to why Bengaluru roads are so bad. This stirred the hornet's nest. There were comments from the government's side that constant criticism is not good; that criticism of this kind actually dissuades investors; that it's all about the unwieldy population Bengaluru carries equally as burden and boon. On the other hand, the public refrain indicated we need to urgently improve our infrastructure. They questioned the long pendency of projects like the Ejipura flyover. The government is busy answering these and more.

Is this noise and bluster fair? Must people be vocal about what's missing in their city? And is this bad for the city's image? Must the citizens, therefore, sit back and wait till everything planned falls into place?

The answer is blowing in the winds of both social and heritage media. In a vibrant democracy such as ours, questions will be asked and answers demanded. Anonymous questions and barbs will outnumber the proudly identified ones — the former nasty, the latter civil. These need to be respected and replied to. The vocal ones ask questions for those who do not wish to speak or articulate their inner thoughts. To an extent, questions such as the one from Kiran represent the pulse of the needs and wants of the megacity's residents. The citizen, by and large, is asking for accountability. As one of the many social media posts asks, "If I delay on my property tax, I am fined. If I delay my income tax, I will be penalised. Must the government also not be answerable for the works not done?"

Karnataka today is blessed with a savvy chief minister in Siddaramaiah and an action-oriented DCM in Shivakumar. Bengaluru is asking for action from this powerful combination at the helm of governance. This action needs to be quick, decisive, and visible. If there is a pothole reported, it must be rectified within 24 hours. A dumping of debris complaint must be sorted pronto. A garbage dark spot must be cleared instantly. Traffic police must deal with constant complaints of footpath riding and salmon riding on our roads (riding against the traffic flow)with a zero-tolerance attitude. We need to feel governed.

I think the current Bengaluru fracas can be sorted out easily if there is a strong sense of commitment to handle it. With the Greater Bengaluru Authority in place and fully manned, it's time for Bengaluru to set up a war room in Vidhana Soudha to tackle issues on a war footing. At election time, our political parties put together a war room to manage each constituency; the same approach is needed for Bengaluru's 382 wards. The people need the assurance that if they raise a problem, it will be attended to. This war-room effort must have the simple goal of sorting out every issue visibly and with care in 100 days flat.

To avoid being seen as an armchair critic, I am willing to put my administrative skills—honed during election war-room operations for political parties—to use in fixing our city's shoddy and deficient urban public infrastructure and handling everyday civic complaints. Over the next 100 days, every complaint that is filed must be resolved and closed. A difficult task, but one that can be done. Let's do it. *(Views are personal)*

(harishbijoor@hotmail.com)

DEEPFAKES, DOXXING, DIGITAL ABUSE

ANU MARIA FRANCIS

Senior Associate, Research and Project Management at Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR)

TECHNOLOGY is a double-edged sword in the context of violence against women and girls (VAWG). The National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) reported a 118.4 percent rise in online crimes between 2020 and 2024 against women under four major categories: online child sexual abuse and exploitation, gang rape and sexual abuse online content, sexually explicit acts, and sexually obscene material. The National Crime Records Bureau says 14,409 cases were registered in 2022, only a fraction of the true scale of such crimes in India. At the same time, technology-driven tools like NCRP have improved the collection of data and reporting of crimes, while the Sahyog Portal, with anonymous reporting, enables law enforcement to receive information from intermediaries.

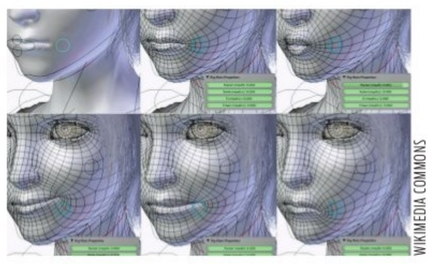
Given the rapid transformation of technology facilitating new forms of VAWG—from virtual rape and AI-enabled deep fakes to dark web transactions—the key question emerges: Are India's existing laws and institutions responsive and robust enough to address these evolving threats effectively?

In the Indian context, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2024, the IT Act 2008, and the POCSO Act 2012 have provisions for offences like online sexual harassment, stalking, voyeurism, transmitting sexually explicit material, etc. The IT Rules, 2021, mandate the intermediaries to take down non-consensual images within 24 hours of a complaint being raised.

India has central and state mechanisms to address online VAWG, such as I4C, the 1930 helpline, cyberforensic labs, capacity-building MOOC platforms, and cyber cells. States employ different models, such as Kerala's CyberDome and Telangana's Women Safety Wing with Cyber Module. However, effective use and innovation vary widely across states.

Turning to practices in other countries, in the US, 48 states have revenge porn laws providing civil and criminal remedies—enabling victims to seek damages and prosecution. Cyberstalking is explicitly recognised under 18 U.S.C. § 2261A, which grants the FBI cross-state jurisdiction. Some states allow protective orders specifically for cyber harassment. While the Communications Decency Act (1996) grants digital intermediaries safe harbour, the FOSTA-SESTA legislation (2018) made exceptions for platforms knowingly hosting sex-trafficking content, permitting victims to sue website owners.

Institutionally, the US mirrors India with mechanisms such as the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Centre (IC3), Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Forces, and state Cyber-Crime Units. Federal grants support these through VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) and OVM (Office on Violence Against Women). Civil society partners with the government to further strengthen online victim support and helpline infrastructure.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A multi-sectoral approach involving start-ups, universities and tech giants is essential to address capacity gaps of the state. India, being home to the largest internet population, must create awareness about safety precautions against online abuse, have dedicated budget allocations and voluntary support from communities

Notably, the US leverages public-private partnerships (PPPs) to strengthen its justice delivery system. Advanced tech support from start-up companies and universities, especially those developing deepfake detection tools, has been instrumental. For instance, the National Institute of Justice funds such research. Broader efforts, like youth programmes under the Department of Justice, include cyberbullying prevention, educational grants, and girl empowerment. The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) funds pilot projects that support cybercrime victims, including developing resources for advocates handling image-based abuse.

However, as cybercrimes against women evolve, India faces critical gaps. Existing laws have struggled to ensure the conviction of perpetrators due to generic provisions and a lack of facilities like cyber forensic laboratories. For example, activities like revenge porn, deep fakes, and online doxxing lack standalone legal provisions. Cross-border crimes are further complicated by limited expertise and slow processes for legal assistance, allowing perpetrators time to evade accountability. Section 79 of the IT Act provides a safe harbour for intermediaries, discouraging proactive content monitoring. Furthermore, there are no clear guidelines for AI-generated content, robust victim compensation, or online restraining orders for cyber harassment. Weak enforcement of the Data Protection Law exacerbates these issues.

Against this backdrop, while India's approach remains largely generic, the US adopts specific legislation and targeted institutions. For India, stronger partnerships with civil society, wider capacity building across government, and dedicated institutions to address tech-enabled VAWG are essential. Ensuring victim confidentiality—supported by robust data protection laws and institutional frameworks—should be prioritised over anonymity alone.

Building on these recommendations, a multi-sectoral approach involving start-ups, universities, and tech giants is vital to address state-level capacity gaps. Given its vast internet population, India must prioritise public awareness about online abuse safety, allocate dedicated budgets, and seek voluntary community support.

Finally, as technology continues to outpace regulation, India must update laws like the Domestic Violence Act and POCSO Act, and enforce the pending Digital India Bill to clarify punishments and civil remedies for emerging crimes. Addressing the roots of misogyny and lack of sex education requires urgent, collective attention from all stakeholders, including the Government. Policy initiatives, such as integrating Childline into 112, should also be rigorously evaluated for effectiveness.

(Views are personal)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Cinematic collaborations

Ref: *With a little help from filmy friends* (Oct 19). Established filmmakers stepping up to support debuting creators is an essential shift for cinema as a true community art form. Unlike past eras dominated by secrecy and competition, today's spirit of collaboration breaks the cycle of gatekeeping and democratises filmmaking.
Aditya Kamble, Kalaburagi

Investment hype

Ref: *Gold rush, AI bubble, roaches and scent of fear* (Oct 19). Today's boom in gold and AI are two sides of the same coin—driven by greed, fear and dreams of endless growth. Markets chase hype over truth. Beneath the shine lies fragility; when the dust settles, reality will have the final word.
Avinashiappan Myilsami, Coimbatore

Kerala paradox

Ref: *Kerala battles for new identities* (Oct 19). The column is a realistic and naturally changing political scenario of Kerala, paradoxically ruled by those who often abuse the Indic culture. They need to be cured of their toxic addiction to colonialism that aims to wreck our native roots.
U Atreya Sarma, Hyderabad

Anti-India incitement

Ref: *Can shatter the image of Indian immunity: Munir* (Oct 19). For such dangerous leaders who wield absolute power in Pakistan, anti-Indian sentiments are used to remain in power. These acts are indispensable, and they end up incurring all the misery to Pakistan's hapless people.
B V K Thampi, email

Ukrainian compromise

Ref: *Frustrated Trump tells Russia, Ukraine to 'stop where they are and go home'* (Oct 19). Freezing the Ukraine war along the current frontlines offers no true victory for either side. Ukraine risks losing vast, mineral-rich territories that are vital for its economy and future. Meanwhile, Russia, despite suffering massive losses, would still fail to achieve its strategic objectives. Compromises postpone all realism.
Aryan Singh, Dhenkanal

Penalise Pak

Ref: *Cricketers killed* (Oct 19). The Afghanistan Cricket Board has rightly withdrawn from the tri-series hosted by Pakistan, following the inhumane murder of sportspersons. Pakistan, must be penalised in some form by the international cricket board for the outright dastardly act.
George Jacob, Kochi

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Mahua Moitra @MahuaMoitra
All main media houses walk out of Pentagon refusing to sign Trump administration rules on restricting defense & military reporting-call it dark day for press freedom. Meanwhile Indian media; "Modiji's rules alone can guide us"

Amit Shah @AmitShah
Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji stays among the brave soldiers every Diwali and encourages them. Today, Modi ji celebrated Diwali with the naval personnel on INS Vikrant.

Pawan Khera @Pawankhera
There was an innocence to the Diwali we knew growing up. A magic so pure and simple, it should never have been lost. Happy Diwali

INDIA ON VERGE OF ERADICATING NAXAL-MAOIST TERROR: PM MODI

PM says over 100 dists freed from its grip, attributes achievement to armed & police forces

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India is on the "verge of eradicating" Naxal-Maoist terror, with more than 100 districts freed from its grip set to celebrate Diwali with "pride and dignity" this year.

Addressing armed forces onboard INS Vikrant off the Goa coast, Modi hailed security personnel for their "valour and sacrifice", crediting them for reducing the Maoist footprint from 125 districts a decade ago to just 11 today.

"It is due to the valour and courage of our security forces that the country has achieved another major milestone over the last few years. This milestone is about eradication of Maoist terrorism. The country is on the verge of liberation from Naxal-Maoist terror," the prime minister said.

He said before 2014, nearly 125 districts across the country were in the grip of Maoist violence. "This has reduced due to the steps taken by the government over the past decade," the PM said.

Of these 11 districts, only three remain under Maoist influence," Modi said. "For the first time, people in such district are celebrating Diwali in peace. Record sales and purchases are being witnessed in these areas during the GST Bachat Utsav. In districts where Maoist terror once suppressed even the mention of the Constitution, the mantra of Swadeshi now resonates," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi offers sweets to naval personnel aboard INS Vikrant during his Diwali visit, off the coast of Goa and Karwar on Monday | PTI

> **Before 2014, nearly 125 districts across the country were in the grip of Maoist violence and this number has now reduced to just 11 districts due to the steps taken by the government over the past decade**
>
> Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Modi said it was perhaps for the first time since Independence that the police forces were faced with such a big challenge> He said he believed that the scourge of the last 50 years will be defeated.

"They (police forces) have achieved 90 per cent success," he said, asserting that fighting the war within the country required a lot of patience to ensure that no innocent life was lost. He said there were regions where Maoists did not allow building schools, roads and hospitals, blew up schools and hospitals and gunned down doctors. In the same regions, highways are being built, new businesses are taking root, and schools and hospitals are building a new future for children, Modi said. The prime minister credited the success to the penance, sacrifice and courage of the security forces.

He also saluted the brave police forces who are leading the fight against Maoist terror, saying the drive against Maoist terror was able to achieve success due to the sacrifices of a number of police personnel.

Buddha relics return after wk-long exposition in Russia

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and monks offer prayers after sacred relics of Lord Buddha returned to India | PTI

PARVEZ SULTAN @New Delhi

The Holy Relics of Lord Buddha returned to India following a "historic and spiritually significant" week-long exposition held in the Republic of Kalmykia in Russia. The Indian delegation, led by Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, departed from Elista, the capital of Kalmykia, on Sunday.

The exposition, organised by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), the National Museum and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), aimed to celebrate the shared Buddhist heritage and strengthen the deep-rooted people-to-people ties between India and Russia.

A special ceremony was held at the Central Temple, "the Golden Abode of Buddha Shakyamuni," in Elista to mark the exposition's conclusion. Addressing monks and devotees, Sinha reflected on the profound impact of the event."The exposition underscored our commitment to foster mutual understanding, build trust and cooperation, and create lasting connections through shared spiritual experiences," Sinha said.

He emphasised that while the physical relics have returned, "Lord Buddha's enduring presence in Kalmykia will continue to guide seekers for their own awakening." He described the past week as "historic and filled with blessings," bringing joy and spiritual fulfilment to the people of Kalmykia.

> **The exposition underscored our commitment to foster mutual understanding, build trust and cooperation, and create lasting connections through shared spiritual experiences**
>
> Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of J&K

The L-G further elaborated on the timeless relevance of Lord Buddha's teachings, calling upon humanity to build a world rooted in kindness, wisdom and justice. "We must build a world full of kindness, free of all discrimination, and in which humanity lives in harmony with nature. I strongly believe Buddha's teachings will provide humanity a roadmap in this direction," he said.

Highlighting the diplomatic importance of the event, Sinha affirmed that "the cultural and spiritual exchange between India and Russia remains one of the highest priorities," noting that it is based on a "shared belief in the enduring values of peace, spiritual ethos, and compassionate living."

He concluded by reminding attendees of the core of Buddha's message: "Be a Light unto Yourself – look within as the light and pure awareness is within you." The exposition of the Holy Relics has served to deepen the spiritual connection between the two nations, reinforcing a shared heritage and a common vision for peace and mindfulness for future generations.

Russian univ inks pact with Nalanda University

PARVEZ SULTAN @New Delhi

In a significant step towards enhancing educational, scientific, and cultural collaboration between India and Russia, Kalmyk State University, Elista, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with Nalanda University — one of the world's most ancient centres of learning.

The meeting was held at Kalmyk State University in the presence of senior dignitaries from both sides, including the Minister Plenipotentiary, Embassy of India in the Russian Federation, Nikhilesh Chandra Giri; Deputy Chairman of the Regional Government of Kalmykia Aleksey Eteyev, rector of Kalmyk State University Prof Badma Salayev and others.

On the occasion, Salayev underlined the importance of the partnership, noting that the visit of Indian diplomats and academic representatives marks a new chapter in the deepening of educational and cultural cooperation. He said the recent arrival of the sacred Buddha relics from India to Kalmykia holds profound symbolic significance, further strengthening interreligious and intercultural dialogue. He said Kalmyk State University collaborates with universities in 23 countries and hosts about 1,500 international students from 53 nations, including 50 Indians. He emphasised that international partnerships in education, research and cultural exchange remain a top priority for the university.

Representing Nalanda University, V-C Sachin Chaturvedi, who joined the event through video conferencing, noted that the collaboration aligns with Nalanda's historical legacy as a global hub of knowledge and intercultural exchange.

Ayush, allopathy docs equal? SC refers matter to larger bench

PTI @New Delhi

THE Supreme Court has referred to a larger bench the question whether doctors practising indigenous medical systems such as Ayurveda, Unani, homeopathy can be treated on par with "allopathic" doctors for determining service conditions, retirement age, and pay scales.

On May 13, a bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran reserved its order on the pleas seeking answer to whether there can be a different age of superannuation for doctors practising modern medicine from the practitioners of AYUSH in government hospitals and clinics.

In an order delivered on October 17, the bench said "there is divergence of opinion" on whether doctors of the two systems can be treated equally for service benefits and hence, the issue required an authoritative pronouncement.

The court noted that earlier decisions had taken divergent stands on whether AYUSH doctors could claim the same retirement benefits and pay scales as allopathic doctors.

"We cannot ignore the submission of the States that enhancement of the retirement age (of allopathic doctors) was only to ensure that there are sufficient experienced medical practitioners available to treat the public," it said.

The dearth of medical practitioners as occurring in allopathy does not exist in the indigenous systems of medicine especially when critical life-saving therapeutic, interventional and surgical care is not carried out by the practitioners of indigenous systems of medicine. We are of the opinion that there should be an authoritative pronouncement on the issue and we hence refer the matter to a larger Bench," the order read.

Pending the larger bench's decision, the court allowed states and authorities the option to continue AYUSH practitioners beyond their current age of superannuation, up to the retirement age applicable to allopathic doctors, on a temporary basis, but without regular pay and allowances.

Clash with cops: 6 JNU students booked

PTI @New Delhi

The Delhi police booked and "bound down" six students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), including three office-bearers of the varsity's students' union, on Monday, a day after the students clashed with the police. A protest march to the Vasant Kunj (North) police station had led to a confrontation between students and police, leaving several injured.

Those bound down are JNUSU president Nitish Kumar, vice-president Manisha, general secretary Munteha Fatima, and students Manikant Patel, Briti Kar and Saurya Majumdar.

Being "bound down" means they are legally required to appear before the investigating officer when summoned and must inform the police if they intend to leave the city, a senior officer said.

Police said an FIR was registered against them at the Vasant Kunj (North) police station. As many as 28 other students were detained under Section 65 of the Delhi Police Act and released after medical examination.

According to police, six personnel were injured when students allegedly broke barricades and obstructed traffic on the Nelson Mandela Marg. The protest march, organised by Left-affiliated groups including AISA and SFI, was held to demand an FIR against ABVP members.

Nitish Kumar, JNUSU president

Teachers condemn action

The JNU Teachers' Association condemned the police action, calling it "disproportionate and politically motivated." It also expressed concern over the detention of women students after 7 pm.

The students accused the RSS-backed group of attacking Left-leaning students during a general body meeting on the campus recently.

Student organisations alleged that police resorted to "brutal assault" to disperse them.

The JNU Teachers' Association condemned the police action, calling it "disproportionate and politically motivated."

It also expressed concern over the detention of women students "after 7 pm" and urged the administration to protect the university's "tradition of democratic student politics." Police, however, denied the allegations, stating that their action was necessary to maintain order and prevent escalation.

Delhi gasps on Diwali; 34 of 38 stations in 'red zone'

PTI @New Delhi

Delhi's air quality deteriorated on Diwali, with 34 out of 38 monitoring stations recording pollution levels in the 'red zone' on Monday, indicating 'very poor' to 'severe' air across the national capital. Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI), which is reported at 4 pm every day, remained in the 'very poor' category at 345, higher than the 326 recorded on Sunday, according to official data.

According to the SAMEER app developed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), four monitoring stations were already in the 'severe' category with AQI levels above 400 — Dwarka (417), Ashok Vihar (404), Wazirpur (423) and Anand Vihar (404).

Around 30 monitoring stations reported 'very poor' air, with AQI levels above 300. In the afternoon, 31 out of 38 stations recorded 'very poor' air quality, while three stations fell under the 'severe' zone, data showed.

The air quality is expected to slip into the 'severe' category more widely on Tuesday and Wednesday. The CPCB categorises AQI between 0 and 50 as 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe.' Transport emissions contributed 15.6 per cent to Delhi's air pollution on Monday, while other factors, including industries, accounted for 23.3 per cent, data from the Decision Support System (DSS) showed.

The India Gate engulfed in a layer of smog on Monday. The capital's AQI slipped to 'very poor' category on Diwali morning | PTI

On Sunday, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) invoked Stage II of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) across Delhi-NCR.

The move followed a review of the sub-committee on GRAP on Saturday and forecasts by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM). On October 15, the Supreme Court allowed the sale and bursting of green firecrackers in Delhi-NCR between 6 am and 7 pm and again from 8 pm to 10 pm on Diwali eve and the day of the festival.

Study flags inconsistent cancer research in India despite economic devpt

PTI @New Delhi

INDIA had a largely inconsistent growth in clinical research related to cancer since 2001, despite a strong economic growth, suggesting that development could be a contributing factor towards disparities among the low and middle-income countries in cancer research, according to a new study.

Cancer cases and deaths are projected to surge in the coming decades with low and middle-income countries expected to bear a disproportionate burden.

However, researchers, including those from the the Latin American Cooperative Oncology Group, said that clinical trials of cancer are disproportionately concentrated in high-income countries, even as previous evidence suggests an increase in trials among low and middle-income nations.

The study, published in the journal 'CANCER', looked at disparities in the numbers and complexity of clinical trials over time and according to economic changes. Datasets from World Bank and ClinicalTrials.gov were analysed.

Between 2001 and 2020, a total of 16,977 cancer clinical trials were found to have been registered in low and middle-income countries — an increase from 1,053 during 2001-2005 to 7,661 during 2016-2020.

In India, 54 clinical trials were registered between 2001 and 2005. The figure was seen to increase to 126 during 2016-2020. A total of 506 clinical trials related to cancer had been registered in the country over the entire study period. "(Clinical research) development has been unequal among LMICs. Strong EG could be a contributing factor but only to some extent," the authors wrote, adding that,

"Only China and South Korea meaningfully developed independent and high-complexity clinical research."

However, south and southeast Asian countries, including India, Thailand and Vietnam — also showing a strong economic development — "had mainly inconsistent growth in clinical trials", the researchers said.

ERRATIC PACE

- Between 2001 and 2020, 16,977 cancer clinical trials were registered in low and middle-income countries
- In India, 54 clinical trials were registered between 2001 and 2005, which increased to 126 during 2016-2020
- In all, 506 clinical trials related to cancer were registered in India over the entire study period

8k more spl trains on cards to handle festive rush

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@New Delhi

INDIAN Railways successfully facilitated travel of over 1 crore passengers by operating nearly 4,000 special trains between October 1 and 19. The initiative was part of a comprehensive plan to manage the surge in passenger traffic during the festive season, with elaborate arrangements made for crowd management, including assigning designated holding areas, opening additional ticket counters, ensuring clean washrooms, and making provisions for drinking water.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw checks CCTV footage at the Railway War Room at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi

In a statement on Monday, Indian Railways confirmed the operation of 3,960 special trains during the 20-day period to address the increased demand surrounding festivals such as Durga Puja, Diwali and Chhath. Among the railway zones, Central Railway led with 1,998 special trains, followed closely by Northern Railway which operated 1,919 special services, and Western Railway which ran 1,501 services.

Vaishnaw visits war room

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw visited the Railway War Room, established at Rail Bhawan, on Monday. The war room is operating round the clock to monitor rail traffic during the festive season. During his visit, he interacted with the staff, extended Diwali greetings, and distributed sweets as appreciation of their efforts.

An official said the Railways has made preparations to accommodate the seasonal travel rush. Overall, the national transporter is set to operate 12,011 special trains throughout the festive period — a substantial increase from the 7,724 special services operated during the same time last year. In anticipation of further demand during Diwali and Chhath, Indian Railways plans to run an additional 8,000 special trains in the coming days, ensuring continued support for festive travel across the country.

IED DESTROYED

An IED planted by suspected terrorists in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir was found by security forces during routine patrol and safely destroyed on Monday

₹10.5 CRORE WORTH HYDROPONIC WEED SEIZED AT MUMBAI AIRPORT

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	35	23	Mumbai	36	25
Bhopal	31	18	Panaji	33	25
Jaipur	32	20	Patna	33	24
Amritsar	31	19	Lucknow	33	21
Chennai	30	25	Port Blair	30	24
Kolkata	34	26	Imphal	31	19
Srinagar	29	08	Chandigarh	33	17

Cong pullout from Nagrota seat raises stakes for NC in J&K bypolls

By-election being seen as 1st significant popularity test, referendum on Omar Abdullah govt

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

IN a strategic move amidst the deep strain in the ruling alliance, Congress has opted out of Nagrota bypoll in Jammu despite the seat being spared for the party by ally National Conference (NC). This has raised the stakes for the ruling party in by-elections to two assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir, which is seen as a first significant popularity test and a referendum on Omar Abdullah government's performance.

J&K Pradesh Congress spokesman Ravindra Sharma said the party decided to leave Nagrota assembly seat for NC in view of larger interests and goals to defeat BJP. The move, he said, was taken after detailed deliberations over a report of J&KPCC and taking into account various factors, including the fact that in the last assembly elections, NC was second in the final results of the constituency.

In 2024 assembly polls, BJP's late Devender Rana had won Nagrota seat by securing 48,113 votes while NC's Joginder Singh was runner up with 17,641 votes and Balbir Singh of Congress got 5,979 votes.

The bypolls for Nagrota and Budgam seats scheduled for November 11 were necessitated by the death of sitting Nagrota BJP MLA Devender Rana in October last year and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah vacating the Budgam seat and retaining Ganderbal. NC had agreed to contest Budgam and leave Nagrota for Congress after tensions flared up between the allies following NC's snub to Congress in the Rajya Sabha elections. Sources said the Congress leadership was deeply hurt after NC allegedly reneged on a commitment to offer a "safe" seat and instead offered an "unsafe seat".

"It is being seen as betrayal and there is strong resentment in the party against continuing alliance with NC for sidelining the party right from denying cabinet berths in government formation to RS snub. The J&K Congress has submitted a detailed report to the party leadership conveying the opinion of the leaders," they said.

By pulling out from the bypolls, the Congress has effectively placed the entire burden of the by-elections on NC, significantly raising the stakes for the ruling party. In Nagrota, the contest will now be between BJP's Devyani Rana and NC's Shamim Begum.

In Budgam, the ruling party is facing internal strife as the party's MP and influential Shia leader Aga Ruhullah has refused to campaign for party candidate Aga Mehmood, also a Shia leader. Ruhullah, who has a strong support base in Budgam's mixed Shia-Sunni population, is dissatisfied with Omar government's 'soft' approach towards the Centre and its failure to deliver on key poll promises, including Article 370 restoration and equitable job reservation. In addition, the NC sidelined Ruhullah over his criticism and excluded him from key decision-making processes despite being an MP.

The Budgam contest is now shaping into a tough battle between NC's Aga Mehmood and PDP's Aga Muntazir Mehdi. In the 2024 assembly elections, Mehdi had garnered 17,525 votes against Omar Abdullah's 35,804 votes.

Litmus test for Omar

Political observers said the Congress's withdrawal has made the bypolls a litmus test for Omar Abdullah's govt. "The NC will now have to go all out in Budgam and may also try to reconcile with Aga Ruhullah as it cannot afford to lose the seat," they said. "A setback, especially in Budgam, could signal waning of public confidence in Omar regime , and provide the opposition a major opportunity to challenge it," they said.

'Maha to help realise PM's developed India dream'

PTI @Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday said the state will play a leading role in achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a fully developed India by 2047. Addressing a 'Viksit Maharashtra 2047' advisory committee meeting here, Fadnavis said Maharashtra's Vision Document would serve as a key roadmap to make the state globally competitive.

"Maharashtra will play a leading role in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a fully developed India by 2047," he said and added the state's Vision Document will serve as a guiding framework to achieve that goal.

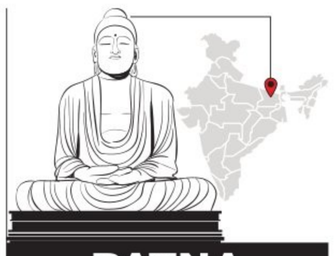
The advisory committee approved the draft of Viksit Maharashtra 2047, which will soon be placed before the cabinet for approval. The document outlines a three-phase roadmap to achieve development goals by 2029, 2035 and 2047.

Calling the draft a historic document, Fadnavis said all future schemes and policies should be aligned with it.

"This document will make Maharashtra capable of competing not only with other states but also with the world. It should be converted into a video format so that citizens can easily understand its objectives," he said. Fadnavis directed departments to develop an artificial intelligence-based mechanism to assess proposals before approval and correct deficiencies in advance, according to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office.

"This will save considerable time and departments will only have to verify the accuracy of AI-generated work," he said.

Fadnavis also called for a large language model (LLM) for efficient AI operations and a cloud-based system for maintaining data of beneficiaries of various schemes.



PATNA DIARY

RAMASHANKAR

Our correspondent in Bihar

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Folk singers, Bhojpuri actors add glamour to Bihar elections

Bihar's election stage has always had drama, but this time, the script has a cinematic twist. A folk singer and Bhojpuri actors have entered the political fray, turning the 2025 assembly election into a fusion of star power and caste calculation. While BJP is playing the Mithila card by fielding folk singer Mithili Thakur from Alinagar seat in Darbhanga, RJD has chosen to bank on stardom of Bhojpuri actor Khesari Lal Yadav, who is in the fray from Chhapra seat in Saran district. Another Bhojpuri singer Ritesh Pandey is trying his luck from Kargahar seat in Rohtas district on the ticket of Jan Suraaj Party. This will add glamour to next month's electoral battle in the state.

Ally JD(U)'s pick in BJP leader's 'tainted' list

Former Union Minister R K Singh has appealed to voters not to vote for 'tainted candidates' even if they belong to their caste. The bureaucrat-turned politician, known for speaking his mind, said that voters should opt for NOTA rather than vote for candidates with criminal antecedents. "It is better to die than vote for candidates with tainted past," he said. He took the names of JD(U)'s Anant Singh (Mokama), Samrat Chaudhary (Tarapur), Osama Shahab (Raghunathpur) and Deepu Singh (Arrah) as some of the candidates with a blemished record.

Husband, wife engage in political showdown

A family discord has spilled over to political arena in Bihar's East Champaran district. Hours after Deva Gupta filed nomination papers from Motihari assembly constituency, his wife Preeti Kumari, who serves as Municipal Corporation Mayor, turned up at the office of Motihari sub-divisional officer and filed her papers from the same seat. While Deva Gupta has been fielded by RJD, Preeti Kumari will contest election as an Independent candidate in the coming Bihar assembly election. Political pundits agree that residents of Motihari will be closely scrutinising this unique contest of 'family versus party'.

Bengal LoP Suvendu alleges attack by goons

PTI @Kolkata

LEADER of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly **Suvendu Adhikari** on Monday claimed that he was attacked by goons in the Sunderbans area of South 24 Parganas district when he went to attend the Kali Puja and Diwali festival. He alleged that the attack was a conspiracy of the ruling TMC.

Adhikari said that his lawyer has lodged separate complaints with the concerned local police stations, sharing copies of those in a post on X.

The BJP leader claimed that he was "attacked" by goons when he was travelling by his vehicle at Kashinagar, Kultali, Khutibazar, Raidighi, Nabadokan and Krishnachandrapur within the Sunderban police district on Sunday.

Alleging that the incidents were not stray but a "conspiracy of the ruling Trinamool Congress", Adhikari claimed illegal migrants from Bangladesh were being instigated to perpetrate attacks on the opposition political party.

"The details of my itinerary were given to the Sunderban Police District to ensure no untoward incident occurs," he wrote on X, alleging that the police "failed" to perform its duty. "Appropriate legal steps will be taken in this regard," he added.

Willing to contest 2029 LS polls from Jhansi: Uma Bharti

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bhopal

PERHAPS the lone politician from Madhya Pradesh, who has won Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha polls from two states, former MP chief minister Uma Bharti is willing to contest the 2029 LS polls if the BJP fields her from Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi seat. "I have told journalists in UP's Lalitpur district that I'm ready to contest the 2029 Lok Sabha polls, if fielded from Jhansi," the 66-year-old saffron clad politician posted on X (formerly Twitteer) on Sunday.

The former CM, who was a minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government as well as the Narendra Modi 1.0 regime at the Centre, has won six LS polls between 1989 and 2014 from three seats of MP and UP, including four times from Khajuraho, once from Bhopal and the last time in 2014 from Jhansi. She also emerged victorious for the BJP in assembly polls from the two neighbouring states, including the Malhara seat of Chhatarpur district of MP in 2003 and the Charkhari seat in Mahoba district of UP in 2012.

Earlier on Saturday, Bharti reportedly told journalists in Lalitpur (UP) that, "Bundelkhand, of which Jhansi is a part, is my emotional home. I share a deep bond with its people. If the party asks, I will definitely contest."

Bharti has kept herself away from electoral politics after winning the 2014 LS polls from Jhansi. She had cited health grounds and commitment for the cause of River Ganga to keep herself away from contesting the 2019 and 2024 national elections. In August this year, she maintained that she wasn't away from politics and would return to the electoral field at an appropriate time.

Back in March 2024, a month before the LS polls, Bharti (one of the frontal leaders of the Ram Temple Movement) had said that till January 21, 2024, she was keen at contesting the Lok Sabha polls. A prominent individual who isn't part of BJP, but the party acts on his advice had asked her to finalise out of 2-3 seats of UP which didn't include Jhansi.

"I assured him that on my return from Ayodhya on January 22, 2024, I would make my choice of the seat in UP known. But once at the Ram Temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya, I remembered former VHP president late Ashok Singhal, whose perseverance led to the realisation of dream of Ram Temple construction. Suddenly I was blessed with garlands of Ram Lala, which I offered in River Ganga in Unnao later. That is when I took a vow to work for the sacred river's cause for the next two years," Bharti said.

In 2014 Lok Sabha polls, when the BJP swept Samajwadi Party-ruled UP, winning with its ally Apna Dal (Sonelal) 73 seats out of the total 80 seats. Bharti had wrested the Jhansi Lok Sabha seat for the BJP from the Congress, by defeating the 2004 winner Chandra Pal Singh Yadav (SP) by over 1.90 lakh votes. The seat was retained by the BJP in 2019 and 2024 as well.

2 STATES, 6 WINS

Uma Bharti has won six LS polls between 1989 and 2014 from MP and UP, including four times from Khajuraho, once from Bhopal and the last time in 2014 from Jhansi. She also emerged victorious for the BJP in assembly polls from the two states.

Assam police team in Singapore to probe singer Zubeen Garg's death

AGENCIES @Guwahati

TWO senior officers of the Assam Police reached Singapore on Monday to investigate the death of singer Zubeen Garg in the island nation last month, officials said.

A special investigation team (SIT) under the criminal investigation department (CID) of the Assam Police is probing Garg's death case after more than 60 FIRs were lodged across the state. A senior official said CID Special DGP Munna Prasad Gupta and Titabor Co-District SP Tarun Goel have reached Singapore. Gupta is heading the SIT, while Goel is among its nine members.

The duo will visit the "place of occurrence where Garg breathed his last", another official said. "Linking the series of events with the place of occurrence is one of the most important aspects of the entire probe. Besides, the Assam Police team will sit with their counterparts in Singapore to discuss the case," he said.

The celebrated singer died under mysterious circumstances in Singapore on September 19 while swimming in the sea. He had gone to the Southeast Asian nation to attend the 4th edition of the North East India Festival. The SIT is also likely to meet the yacht pilot and attendant to know the exact details of the incident, the official said. "They are likely to visit the five-star hotel where Garg had stayed. It will try to examine every angle," he said.

India had invoked the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) with Singapore, seeking cooperation in the investigation into the death of the singer. The Singapore Police Force is also carrying out an independent probe into the incident.

3 held in restaurateur's murder in Jharkhand

PTI @Ranchi

JHARKHAND Police arrested three persons, including the main accused and a suspended policeman, in connection with the murder of a restaurant owner in Ranchi, an officer said on Monday.

One accused, Prashant Kumar Singh, was arrested on Sunday, and based on inputs provided by him, the main accused Abhishek Singh and the suspended policeman Harendra Singh were nabbed.

Acting on a tip-off that Abhishek was attempting to flee from Ranchi with his family, police set up checkpoints at several locations. During the operation, police spotted him and Harendra and surrounded them near the ITBP camp on Sunday night, the officer said.

"Abhishek sustained two gunshot wounds in both his legs during an exchange of fire with police is currently being treated at the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS)," Superintendent of Police (Rural), Praveen Pushkar said.

He said that they also arrested Harendra, who had supplied firearms to Abhishek.

The restaurant owner, Vijay Kumar Nag, 47, was shot dead after a vegetarian customer was allegedly served non-veg biryani in Ranchi on Saturday.

Congress, SP denied Lord Ram's existence, says Yogi

PTI @Gorakhpur

UTTAR PRADESH CM Yogi Adityanath on Monday accused the past governments of the Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP) of denying the existence of Lord Ram and conspiring against his devotees.

He made the remark while addressing the forest-dwelling communities at a public gathering in the Vantangiya village, where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for 133 development projects worth ₹49 crore. This marked the ninth consecutive year that he celebrated Diwali with the Vantangiya villagers as the chief minister.

"Foreign invaders once humiliated Ayodhya, and later, Congress governments made a vile attempt to deny the existence of Lord Ram. The SP government, too, shed the blood of Ram devotees through its conspiracies," Adityanath alleged. "Today, Ayodhya stands renewed and divine, inspiring the entire world," he added.

He said the grand Deepotsav of Ayodhya has become a "symbol of prosperity and good governance".

Adityanath emphasised that the Ayodhya airport has been named after Maharshi Valmiki. Statues of prominent southern saints have been installed, and temples dedicated to sages Valmiki and Vishwamitra now stand within the Ram temple complex, he said.

During the event, the chief minister distributed symbolic house keys under the CM Awas Yojana, Ayushman cards, approval letters for livestock schemes, and certificates from the horticulture department.

Raipur first to implement 'Virtual Net Metering' for rooftops

EJAZ KAISER @Raipur

IN a first in the country, Virtual Net Metering (VNM) has been implemented in a residential society in Raipur under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana positioning Chhattisgarh among the early adopters of the clean energy initiative. The VNM has emerged as a viable option for apartment dwellers, housing societies and government establishments with limited rooftop space — enabling them to share the benefits of a single solar plant and slash their electricity bills.

"Raipur becomes the first in India to successfully execute VNM in a residential society and the state government will now expand the model across the state", said Bimbisar, PM Surya Ghar scheme's state nodal officer.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said the success of the VNM project highlights Chhattisgarh's proactive efforts in advancing renewable energy and sets a benchmark for other states to emulate. "It is a heartening feat as many aspiring to gain from PM Modi's vision can now contribute towards promoting solar energy for a clean and green India", the CM added.

> It is a heartening feat as many aspiring to gain from PM Modi's vision can now contribute towards promoting solar energy for a clean and green India
>
> Vishnu Deo Sai, Chhattisgarh CM

The VNM is installed at Raipur's Parthivi Pacific residential society, where multiple apartments now benefit from a single solar installation. Around 20 families have been clubbed together for the solar project under the Capital Expenditure Model (CAPEX) model, investing their own funds to install a solar plant that they fully own from Day One. Total cost of the solar project was around ₹24 lakh, with each resident receiving a subsidy of ₹78,000 from Union government on their individual share of investment of ₹1.20 lakh. Recently, the Chhattisgarh government further boosted the initiative by offering an additional subsidy of ₹30,000.

The beneficiaries said they received credits for nearly 300 units of power, which has significantly reduced their electricity bills. "VNM is a game changer for urban consumers, enabling shared solar benefits, reducing bills, and accelerating the adoption of clean energy across Chhattisgarh," said Rohit Yadav, chairperson of Chhattisgarh State Power Companies and Secretary (Energy).

How it works: Suppose an apartment complex installs a 100kW solar plant on its rooftop. Instead of each flat setting up its own solar panels, the entire system is connected to a common export meter through which solar power generated by the above plant will be fed to the distribution grid. The total electricity generated by the plant flows into the grid, and benefits are shared among all flats based on their solar shares according to their installed capacity.

KEY FEATURES

- No need for each consumer to install solar panels
- Useful for apartments, commercial buildings, govt-owned establishments
- Enables group billing or credit allocation from one solar installation
- Supports solar energy adoption in space-constrained urban areas

Trump says Ukraine's Donbas will have to be 'cut up' to end Russian invasion

Comments follow Ukrainian drone strike on gas processing plant in southern Russia

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE

US President Donald Trump on Sunday said that the Donbas region of Ukraine should be "cut up", leaving most of it in Russian hands, to end a war that has dragged on for nearly four years. "Let it be cut the way it is," he told reporters aboard Air Force One. "It's cut up right now," adding that you can "leave it the way it is right now". "They can negotiate something later on down the line," he said. But for now, both sides of the conflict should "stop at the battle line — go home, stop fighting, stop killing people."

Trump's latest comments came after Ukrainian drones struck a major gas processing plant in southern Russia, sparking a fire and forcing it to suspend its intake of gas from Kazakhstan, Russian and Kazakh authorities said on Sunday.

The Orenburg plant, run by state-owned gas giant Gazprom and located in a region of the same name near the Kazakh border, is part of a production and processing complex that is one of the world's largest facilities of its kind, with an annual capacity of 45 billion cubic metres. It handles gas condensate from Kazakhstan's Karachaganak field, alongside Orenburg's own oil and gas fields.

US President Donald Trump speaks to the press aboard Air Force One, en route to Washington DC, from Palm Beach, Florida | AFP

According to regional governor, Yevgeny Solntsev, the drone strikes set fire to a workshop at the plant and damaged part of it. The Kazakh Energy Ministry on Sunday said, citing a notification from Gazprom, that the plant was temporarily unable to process gas originating in Kazakhstan, "due to an emergency situation following a drone attack".

Ukraine's General Staff said in a statement Sunday that a "large-scale fire" erupted at the Orenburg plant, and that one of its gas processing and purification units was damaged.

Kyiv has ramped up attacks in recent months on Russian energy facilities it says both fund and directly fuel Moscow's war effort. Meanwhile, Trump has edged back in the direction of pressing Ukraine to give up on retaking land it has lost to Russia, in exchange for an end to Moscow's aggression.

Asked in a Fox News interview on Thursday whether Russian President Vladimir Putin would be open to ending the war "without taking significant property from Ukraine", Trump responded, "Well, he's going to take something."

Meanwhile, contrary to Kyiv's hopes, Trump did not commit to providing it with Tomahawks following his meeting with Zelenskyy. The missiles would be the longest-range weapons in Ukraine's arsenal and would allow it to strike targets deep inside Russia, including Moscow, with precision. AP

RUNAWAY PLANE

An ACT Airlines Boeing 747-400 cargo aircraft, wet-leased by Emirates SkyCargo, is seen in seawater after veering off the runway during landing on the north runway of Hong Kong International Airport on Monday, killing two | AFP

Centrist Rodrigo Paz wins Bolivia's presidential runoff

LA PAZ

RODRIGO Paz, a Centrist senator who was never a nationally prominent figure until now, won Bolivia's presidential election on Sunday, preliminary results showed, galvanising voters outraged by the country's economic crisis and frustrated after 20 years of rule by the Movement Toward Socialism party.

"The trend is irreversible," Oscar Hassenteufel, the president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, said of Paz's lead over his rival, former Right-Wing President Jorge 'Tuto' Quiroga.

Paz won 54 per cent of the votes, early results showed, versus Quiroga's 45 per cent. "Today, Bolivia can be certain that this will be a government that will bring solutions," he told supporters. "Bolivia breathes winds of change and renewal to move forward." Shortly after the results came in, Quiroga conceded to Paz.

"I've called Rodrigo Paz and wished him congratulations," he said in a sombre speech, prompting jeers and cries of fraud from the audience. But Quiroga urged calm, saying that a refusal to recognise the results would "leave the country hanging".

Bolivia's presidential candidate Rodrigo Paz delivers a speech to supporters, following the results, in La Paz | AFP

Paz and his popular running mate, ex-police Capt Edman Lara, gained traction among working-class and rural voters disillusioned with the unbridled spending of the long-ruling Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) party, but wary of Quiroga's radical 180-degree turn away from its social protections. Paz's victory sets this South American nation of 12 million on a sharply uncertain path, as he seeks to enact major change for the first time since the 2005 election of Evo Morales, the founder of MAS and Bolivia's first Indigenous president. Paz inherits an economy in shambles. He plans to end Bolivia's fixed exchange rate, phase out generous fuel subsidies, and reduce hefty public investment, redrawing much of the MAS economic model that dominated for two decades. But he says he will maintain MAS-style benefits and take a gradual approach to free-market reforms, in hopes of avoiding a sharp recession or jump in inflation that would enrage the masses, as has happened before in Bolivia.

Although Paz, the son of former President Jaime Paz Zamora, who was in office from 1989 to 1993, has spent more than two decades in politics as a lawmaker and mayor, he appeared in this race as a political unknown. The senator rose unexpectedly from the bottom of the polls to a first-place finish in the August vote. AP

CHINA PLENARY

Communist Party begins key meet; to finalise new 5-year plan

BEIJING

THE Communist Party of China on Monday commenced a key meeting to finalise a new five-year plan amid concerns over an economic slowdown driven by US trade tensions and a sweeping purge at the top of the military.

The CPC, headed by President Xi Jinping, began the three-day meeting of the plenary session, considered to be the most important in the current context of growing strategic competition with the US.

According to data, China's economy grew at 4.8 per cent, the slowest pace this year, compared to the previous quarters. The slowdown of the world's second-largest economy was attributed to its growing trade conflict over the tariff war initiated by US President Donald Trump, blunting China's exports to America, one of its major markets. The economy slowed down from a 5.2 per cent pace of growth in the previous quarter, but close to the official annual target of 5 per cent GDP for this year, figures released by the National Bureau of Statistics showed.

President Xi, who is also the General Secretary of the party, delivered a work report and expounded on the CPC leadership's draft proposals for the formulation of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) for national economic and social development, Xinhua reported.

Meanwhile, Xi also stepped up his sweeping anti-corruption campaign in the military by expelling two top generals, along with seven other top officials ahead of the plenary meeting, sparking speculation of a purge in the party. PTI

ASIA MATTERS

THE PHILIPPINES

TROPICAL STORM CLAIMS SEVEN LIVES

A tropical storm lashed the northern and central Philippines over the weekend, killing seven people after forcing more than 22,000 people to evacuate from flood- and landslide-prone villages. Tropical Storm Fengshen blew away from the main northern Philippine region of Luzon into the South China Sea late on Sunday. It currently has sustained winds of up to 65 kmph and gusts of up to 80 kmph, forecasters said. The government's disaster mitigation agency reported seven deaths. Nearly 14,000 people who evacuated remained displaced by Monday, the agency said.

CAMBODIA

CAMBODIA OPENS NEW $2B AIRPORT

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet on Monday inaugurated a major new airport to serve the capital Phnom Penh and boost tourism and foreign investment. Techo International Airport is a three-runway facility that replaces the nearly 70-year-old Phnom Penh International Airport, which had only one runway.

SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE CELEBRATES WITH MIGRANTS

Over 500 migrant workers, mostly from India, were treated to an afternoon of festivities, joined by local volunteers, to celebrate Diwali at the Flower Field Hall of Singapore's Gardens by the Bay, Marina Bay skyline and waterfront. Activities included performances, games and a lamp-lighting ceremony. The event was joined by Minister of State for Manpower Dinesh Vasu Dash, and was organised by the Ministry of Manpower's Assurance, Care and Engagement Group (ACE), and the Indian Institute of Management Alumni Singapore.

Takaichi on track to become Japan's 1st female PM

TOKYO

JAPAN'S governing party leader, Sanae Takaichi, is on track to become the country's first female prime minister, after finding a badly needed replacement for a crucial partner that left her Liberal Democratic Party's coalition. Takaichi, 64, would replace PM Shigeru Ishiba in Tuesday's parliamentary vote. If she's successful, it would end Japan's three-month political vacuum and wrangling since the coalition's loss in the July parliamentary election.

The moderate centrist Komeito party split from the LDP after a 26-year-long coalition. The move by Komeito came days after Takaichi's election as president of her party, and it forced her into a desperate search for a replacement to secure votes so that she could become prime minister.

The Buddhist-backed Komeito left after raising concerns about her ultraconservative politics and the LDP's lax response to slush fund scandals that led to their consecutive election defeats and loss of majority in both houses.

While the leaders of the country's top three opposition parties failed to unite for a change of government, Takaichi went for a quick fix by teaming up with the most conservative of them: The Osaka-based Ishin no Kai, or Japan Innovation Party. But the long-term stability of their cooperation is an unknown. The two parties are set to sign a coalition agreement on Monday.

Japanese prime-ministerial hopeful Sanae Takaichi in Tokyo on Monday | AFP

An eventual Takaichi premiership would be on a cliff-edge. The fragile new coalition, still a minority, would need cooperation from other opposition groups to pass any legislation. It would be a risk that could lead to an unstable, short-lived leadership. Big diplomatic tests come within days — talks with US President Donald Trump and regional summits. At home, she needs to quickly tackle rising prices and compile economic boosting measures to address the frustrated public.

An admirer of former UK PM Margaret Thatcher, Takaichi's breaking of the glass ceiling makes history in a country whose gender equality ranks poorly internationally. If she's successful in the parliamentary vote, Takaichi would immediately launch her Cabinet on Tuesday and make a policy speech later in the week. A protege of assassinated former PM Shinzo Abe, Takaichi is expected to emulate his economic and security policies. AP

Tourists receive information from a tour guide in front of a closed Louvre, after it was announced that the art museum will remain closed, in Paris on Monday | AFP

Louvre to remain closed day after jewel heist

PARIS

THE Louvre said on Monday that it would remain closed a day after historic jewels were stolen from the world's most-visited museum in a daring daylight heist. The museum's staff asked dozens of visitors who were queuing in front of the glass pyramid entrance to leave the site.

In a message posted on social media, the Louvre said visitors who have booked tickets will be refunded. It did not provide additional details.

On Sunday, thieves rode a basket lift up the Louvre's facade, forced a window, smashed display cases and fled with priceless Napoleonic jewels, officials said. The theft about 30 minutes after the museum opened, with visitors already inside, was among the highest-profile museum thefts in living memory.

It unfolded just 250 metres from the Mona Lisa, in what Culture Minister Rachida Dati described as a professional, four-minute-long operation.

French Justice Minister Gerald Darmanin acknowledged security failures on Monday.

"One can wonder about the fact that, for example, the windows hadn't been secured, about the fact that a basket lift was on a public road," he said on France Inter radio. "Having (previously) been interior minister, I know that we cannot completely secure all places, but what is certain is that we have failed."

Rachida said investigators are working on evidence found at the scene. "We did find a motorcycle and it has a licence plate," she said on news broadcaster CNews. "I also want to pay tribute to the security officers who prevented the basket lift from being set on fire. One of the criminals tried to set it on fire, but they forced him to flee. This allowed us to recover evidence at the scene."

Rachida stressed that a decade-long 'Louvre New Renaissance' plan that was launched earlier this year includes security improvements. AP

EXPRESS READ

Merz rejects calls to relax refusal to deal with German far-right party

BERLIN: Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Monday rejected calls from some in his party to relax its refusal to deal with the far-right Alternative for Germany, declaring that the still-growing party has nothing in common with his conservatives. The anti-migration AfD finished second in Germany's national election in February. Polls since then have shown its support continuing to grow, with some putting it level with or even ahead of Merz's Union bloc. Merz's nearly 6-month-old governing coalition with the centre-left Social Democrats, meanwhile, has annoyed many voters with public disagreements on a number of issues. Five of Germany's 16 states hold regional elections next year ' including two in the formerly communist east, where AfD is particularly strong and has good chances of finishing first.

US envoys in Israel to shore up Gaza ceasefire

TEL AVIV

SPECIAL envoy Steve Witkoff and US President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner were in Israel on Monday to shore up the tenuous ceasefire that's holding in Gaza, a day after the fragile deal faced its first major flare-up with Israel threatening to halt aid transfers after it said Hamas militants had killed two soldiers.

The US Embassy said the two envoys had landed in Tel Aviv. The Israeli military later said it resumed enforcing the ceasefire, and the official confirmed that aid deliveries would resume. By early afternoon, it was not immediately clear if the flow of aid had restarted.

More than a week has passed since the start of the US-proposed truce aimed at ending two years of war. Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One on Sunday that Hamas has been "quite rambunctious" and "they've been doing some shooting". He also suggested that the violence might be the fault of rebels within the organisation rather than its leadership. Since the ceasefire started, Hamas security forces have returned to the streets in Gaza, clashing with armed groups and killing alleged gangsters in what the militant group says is an attempt to restore law and order in areas where Israeli troops have withdrawn.

On Sunday, Israel's military said militants had fired at troops in areas of Rafah that are Israeli-controlled according to agreed-upon ceasefire lines. Hamas, which continued to accuse Israel of multiple ceasefire violations, said communication with its remaining units in Rafah had been cut off for months and "we are not responsible for any incidents occurring in those areas".

The next stages of the ceasefire are expected to focus on disarming Hamas, Israeli withdrawal from additional areas it controls in Gaza, and future governance of the devastated territory. The US plan proposes the establishment of an internationally backed authority.

In an interview on the weekend, Kushner said the success or failure of the deal will be if Israel and the international mechanism will be able to create a viable alternative to Hamas. "If they are successful, Hamas will fail, and Gaza will not be a threat to Israel in the future," he said. Meanwhile, a Hamas delegation led by chief negotiator Khalil al-Hayya was in Cairo to follow up the implementation of the ceasefire deal with mediators and other Palestinian groups. AP

26% YoY rise in automobile exports in September quarter, driven by highest-ever shipments of passenger vehicles, two-wheelers and three-wheelers during the period, as per SIAM data

MSMEs skeptical of export boost through ongoing free trade talks

Smaller businesses say structural and regulatory barriers continue to hold them back

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

WITH India's pursuit of free trade agreements (FTAs) gaining momentum — the UK-India FTA already concluded and negotiations with the European Union (EU) expected to wrap up by end-2025 — the government is optimistic about easier market access for Indian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). However, MSMEs remain skeptical, saying that older FTAs have done little to expand their export prospects. Structural and regulatory barriers continue to hold them back.

The government has been particularly vocal about facilitating MSME access to the UK market, especially in tapping international procurement opportunities. But according to Vinod Kumar, President of the India SME Forum, tariff reductions alone are not enough. "Even with tariff concessions under FTAs, MSMEs face stringent non-tariff requirements such as ISO, CE, and eco-label certifications, along with product-specific norms such as EU REACH or US FDA standards," he said. "These mirror the challenges posed by domestic Quality Control Orders (QCOs) and create a double compliance burden — often too costly for smaller firms with limited resources — restricting their ability to bid in foreign tenders."

Kumar added that foreign procurement processes are typically lengthy and designed to favour larger firms. "Requirements such as prior registration, extensive documentation, proven track records, and high-value performance guarantees make participation difficult for MSMEs," he said.

Another major hurdle is limited access to timely information. Unlike large corporations with dedicated trade intelligence teams, SMEs struggle to track tenders across multiple jurisdictions. As a result, they frequently miss opportunities from foreign governments, multilateral banks, or international agencies — undermining the potential benefits of FTAs. Several SMEs noted that few Indian firms managed to tap into the Australian procurement market even after the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) came into effect.

Industry bodies such as the Network of Indian Industries and Enterprises and the India SME Forum point out that many FTA partner countries continue to prioritise local suppliers in government procurement. Additional requirements such as bid security deposits further complicate participation for Indian SMEs.

Adding to their woes are complex taxation systems, high logistics costs, and limited access to export finance. Atul Puri, Managing Partner and Co-founder, Taxation & Assurance, said: "India's logistics costs remain high at 13–14% of GDP, while SMEs struggle with limited access to export finance. There is a need for SME-specific digital platforms offering updated tariff schedules, non-tariff barrier alerts, and procurement notices."

The challenges are not confined to procurement markets alone. SMEs across other sectors — including textiles, apparel, and agriculture — face similar obstacles. Naresh Kumar, managing director, New Rishta Agro, a rice exporter, noted: "Right from customs clearance, the challenges begin for SMEs. Lack of information and compliance with standards often create further hurdles."

IN CONVERSATION

'MAY NOT PASS ON FULL RATE CUT TO DEPOSITORS'

DIPAK MONDAL

INDIAN Bank recently reported a steady performance in the second quarter, posting a 11.5% rise in profit, despite the pressure from falling interest rates. In a conversation with Dipak Mondal of The New Indian Express, Binod Kumar, Managing director and chief executive officer of Indian Bank, spoke about the key drivers of growth, the outlook for margins, CASA mobilisation strategies, and the broader credit environment. Excerpts

Congratulations on a good quarter. What were the main drivers of profit growth during this period?
Thank you. The main driver of profit growth has been our ability to maintain the Net Interest Income (NII), which grew by about 6%. Despite the rate cut, our NII compression was contained to just one basis point. We were able to control the reduction in yield on advances and also bring down our cost of funds by around 13 basis points sequentially. These factors helped sustain profitability.

Your net interest margin (NIM) fell by 16 basis points in the first half and by one basis point in the second quarter. Are you satisfied with this performance? What is your NIM guidance for FY26?
Yes, given that there has been a 100-basis-point policy rate cut, I am satisfied. Our entire external benchmark-linked loan book was repriced immediately, and MCLR rates also came down. The fact that we contained the NIM fall to just one basis point is encouraging. We have guided for a NIM in the range of 3.15% to 3.30%, and we expect to maintain it. There may be some moderation in Q3 as deposit and MCLR repricing takes place, but margins should improve thereafter.

Have you been able to pass on the interest rate cut to depositors as well?
Not fully. While the 100-basis-point cut has been passed on to retail, MSME, and corporate borrowers, deposit rates have only come down by about 50–60 basis points. Given that credit growth is outpacing deposit growth, we may not be able to pass on the entire 100-basis-point cut to depositors.

Do you expect another rate cut from the RBI soon?
The environment is conducive for a rate cut—CPI inflation is benign and growth numbers are healthy. The timing will depend on the governor's assessment, but I expect a cut, possibly in December or February.

If that happens, will your margins come under further pressure?
There could be a slight impact, but we have factored in a 100-basis-point cut in our guidance. We are mitigating this through stronger CASA mobilisation and focusing on retail, agriculture, and MSME loans, which yield better returns than corporate loans.

Your CASA ratio is close to 38%. Are you targeting 40% by year-end?
Yes, 40% is our internal target. However, maintaining CASA is challenging because financial literacy is increasing and customers prefer to invest idle funds in higher-yield instruments such as liquid mutual funds.

How are you addressing this challenge?
We have launched six new CASA-focused products and opened around 1.77 lakh new CASA accounts in Q2, garnering over ₹6,000 crore. Our average CASA balance also rose from Rs 25,000 in Q1 to Rs 44,000 in Q2.

We are focusing on salary accounts—especially of borrowers availing loans from us—as well as collection accounts of state governments, temples, trusts, and universities. We've tied up with several state governments, and a few universities have moved their collection accounts to us in the last quarter.

Your retail, agriculture, and MSME loan segments are growing rapidly. What's driving this growth, particularly in personal and auto loans?
Our vehicle loan portfolio grew by 44% last quarter. The impact of the GST rate cut was visible only in the last week of September, so we expect the full effect in Q3. Consumption demand is picking up, and that will translate into higher credit demand.

Gold loans have also doubled year-on-year. Is there a special focus there?
Yes, we have opened around 100 new specialised agri-jewel loan branches—taking the total to 600—which has driven growth. These loans are classified under the priority sector and cater mainly to small and marginal farmers.

Your unsecured personal loans have declined. Was that a conscious decision?
Yes. We are now offering personal loans only to salaried individuals. We had seen some delinquencies in the past, so we are being cautious.

You mentioned selling interbank participation note worth ₹12,000 crore. What was the rationale?
It is part of our resource management. By selling interbank participation certificates (IBPCs), we raised funds at just 4.06%, which helped contain our cost of funds. The loan book will return to us after six months, so it's a temporary adjustment.

What is your stance on corporate loans? Are you being selective there?
We are lending to corporates, but focusing on better yields. Low-yielding exposures are being phased out. Our exposure to NBFCs has reduced by around ₹6,000 crore since March, and we now lend only to highly rated ones. However, corporate loan sanctions have risen 60% year-on-year—to ₹51,000 crore in the first half.

What are the average yields on corporate and retail loans?
Corporate loans yield about 8.3–8.4%, while retail loans average around 8.5%.

The government holds 73% in Indian Bank. Is there any plan for a stake sale?
No, we are already below 75%, and our capital adequacy ratio is healthy at 17.31%. There's no plan for an OFS. We have board approval for a ₹5,000 crore QIP, but we may not need to use it.

How has your experience been with digital banking units (DBUs)?
The DBU concept is good, but it hasn't taken off yet—perhaps it was ahead of its time. As digital literacy improves, adoption will rise. We're also piloting a "virtual banking experience" for one crore digitally savvy customers who rarely visit branches. Their needs are now handled centrally, and we aim to expand this segment.

How many Jan Dhan accounts do you have currently?
We have about 2.42 crore Jan Dhan accounts with deposits of ₹12,000 crore. These accounts are an important part of our financial inclusion efforts.

Finally, what's your outlook on credit growth for the rest of the year?
Credit growth this year has been around 10–11%, compared with 14–15% last year. However, I expect H2 to be stronger—Q3 and Q4 are usually better. Private investment is picking up selectively in sectors like green energy, solar module manufacturing, and data centres, but broader momentum is yet to build.

UltraTech to invest ₹10,255 cr for expanding capacity

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

CEMENT maker UltraTech on Saturday announced an investment of ₹10,255 crore, which will expand its production capacity by 22.8 MTPA in the segment, which is witnessing a consolidation.

The board of the company, in its meeting held on Saturday, approved capex towards increasing capacity, with a mix of brownfield and greenfield expansion, including its newly acquired subsidiary India Cements, said the Aditya Birla Group flagship firm in a regulatory filing.

On Friday, India Cement, the south India-based company, which UltraTech acquired in December last year, had announced an investment of Rs 440 crore for a proposed capacity addition of 2.80 million tonnes. The investments will start "in a phased manner from FY28 onwards" and the company expects "cement capacity to top 240.76 MTPA" at the end of this capex cycle, also helped by its current ongoing capex.

"This move reinforces UltraTech's commitment to sustained growth and its role in meeting the evolving demands of the Indian market," said UltraTech. UltraTech's existing capacity is 192.26 MTPA (million tonnes per annum). Earlier this year, it had set the target to cross the 200 MTPA capacity mark by the end of this fiscal year.

Retail properties set to drive next wave of REIT growth

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) landscape, currently dominated by commercial office assets, is on the brink of a major transformation, with retail properties set to drive the next wave of growth. A new estimate by ANAROCK Research projects that the Indian retail REIT market could swell to between ₹60,000-80,000 crore by 2030.

This burgeoning retail segment is expected to account for a significant 30-40% of India's overall REIT market, which is projected to reach $25 billion (₹2 lakh crore) by the decade's end. The shift is being fueled by strong consumer spending, rising urban incomes, and the consolidation of high-quality retail assets.

"Currently, out of the five listed REITs in India, only one — Nexus Select Trust—is retail-centric," says Anuj Kejriwal, CEO & MD – ANAROCK Retail. "However, with Grade A malls maturing into stable, income-generating assets, we anticipate the launch of 2-3 new retail REITs over the next 3-5 years. This will mirror the trajectory of mature global economies where retail REITs command 15% to 25% of total market capitalisation."

The expansion is not limited to metros. Tier-II cities like Indore, Coimbatore, Surat, Bhubaneswar, and Chandigarh are witnessing an aggressive expansion by institutional developers, including Phoenix Mills, Prestige Estates, and Nexus Malls. These high-income, consumption-driven clusters are drawing institutional players for the first time, with new mall projects averaging 1-1.2 million sq. ft., focusing heavily on entertainment, F&B, and lifestyle retail.

Market data from ANAROCK Retail's RELEAP H1 2025 report underscores the rising demand. The first half of the current year saw the deployment of 2.8 million sq. ft. of new mall space across the top 7 cities—a 155% increase year-on-year. Net absorption stood at approximately 2.0 million sq. ft., up 31% from the previous year, driven predominantly by the Apparel and F&B segments, which accounted for nearly 55% of total leasing activity.

Kejriwal notes, "These absorption trends reflect an evolution in Indian consumer preferences, with high-value consumption categories gaining increasing traction—a crucial signal for mall developers' future tenant mix strategies."

Interestingly, the rental landscape is showing a contrast: "Across major cities, high streets are displaying consistent rental appreciation due to sustained demand for prime, high-visibility locations," says Kejriwal. "In contrast, mall rentals have largely remained stagnant in most cities, suggesting retailers are taking a more cautious approach towards enclosed retail formats amidst evolving market dynamics."

Consolidation in mall sector likley

The Indian organised mall sector is pivoting from merely chasing square footage to focusing on creating vibrant urban destinations. The sector is predicted to undergo major consolidation over next five years. The top five mall owners are liley to control 60% of the organised stock, and new retail REITs will further institutionalise the market. Older malls are likely to be repurposed into mixed-use integrated lifestyle districts. "Retail is no longer just an afterthought in Indian real estate portfolios," says Anuj Kejriwal, CEO & MD – ANAROCK Retail

A BREAKDOWN OF TRUST AMONG TRUSTEES OF TATA TRUSTS

OPINION

SHRIRAM SUBRAMANIAN
founder of proxy advisory firm InGovern Research Services

SHRIRAM SUBRAMANIAN

THE tremors that shook the Tata Group in recent days may be an indication of deeper fault lines that have long remained hidden beneath its otherwise stable surface. For a conglomerate seen as the gold standard of corporate governance and ethical conduct, these developments serve as a reminder that even the most respected institutions are not immune to corporate governance turbulence.

At the heart of the current turbulence lies a breakdown of trust among the trustees of the Tata Trusts, the philanthropic entities that own about 66% of Tata Sons, the investment holding company of the Tata Group. As trustees struggled to resolve their differences through dialogue and persuasion, a model of quiet consensus and unanimous decisions has become a site of open disagreement. The tensions became evident when Vijay Singh, vice-chairman of Tata Trusts and a long-time trustee, revealed that a bloc within the Trusts had voted against his reappointment as a nominee director on the board of Tata Sons. He called the move "unprecedented" pointing out that such a vote went against the late Ratan Tata's long-standing insistence on decision making through consensus and unanimity. His remarks revealed the tremors and the division within the Trusts, where voting, rather than consensus, has now become the means to resolve differences.

Rooted in philanthropy

The Tata Group's structure is uncommon in global capitalism. Tata Sons serves as the investment holding company, controlling 26 listed companies and a number of unlisted operating companies. The majority ownership of Tata Sons rests with the charitable Tata Trusts that channel dividends into philanthropy. The Trusts fund initiatives in health, education, livelihoods, and community development. The Trusts are currently chaired by Noel Tata, with six other trustees collectively responsible for its decisions. The board of Tata Sons, chaired by N Chandrasekaran, has been widely credited with stabilising the group in the recent past.

Governance and evolving equations

The relationship between the Tata Trusts and Tata Sons has always required careful balancing. The Tata Trusts, as majority shareholders, exercise their rights as defined in the Articles of Association (AoA) of Tata Sons. The AoA has been used by Tata Trusts to exert absolute control over Tata Sons to the detriment of the minority shareholders of Tata Sons. Firstly, the Trusts enjoy an affirmative right, a veto vote, on all key decisions of Tata Sons.

Tensions became evident when Vijay Singh, vice-chairman of Tata Trusts and a long-time trustee, revealed a bloc within the Trusts had voted against his reappointment as a nominee director on the board of Tata Sons. He called the move "unprecedented" and such a vote went against the late Ratan Tata's long-standing insistence on decision making through consensus

Secondly, Tata Sons converted into a private company in 2017 limiting transparency and disclosures. Thirdly, despite the RBI regulations, Tata Sons has resisted a public listing. Such a listing would dramatically alter the group's power equations. In the event of a listing, Tata Sons, would be keen on the listing. The SP Group has sought for a public listing that would provide it an exit opportunity and a much-needed liquidity to pare its debt. This tension, between liquidity and legacy, continues to shape the relationship between the Trusts, the SP Group, and Tata Sons.

Another key reform separated the roles between the chairmen of Tata Sons and Tata Trusts, ensuring operational and philanthropic decisions remain distinct. Also instituted was a selection committee and board affirmation process for the appointment and removal of the Tata Sons chairman.

Managing disagreement without division

In any large organisation, disagreements are inevitable. Divergent views among trustees or directors need not signal a crisis. Open debate and dissent, when handled within institutional frameworks, are signs of maturity. To label the current situation at the trusts as a coup or power struggle would be an oversimplification. The tremors can be seen as a test of how its governance model adapts to generational change and expectations of transparency and accountability beyond blind trust and reverence to one father figure like Ratan Tata.

The road ahead

The current tremors may therefore be less a sign of disintegration and more a moment of introspection. The trustees and directors who guide the Tata institutions would do well to recall that their ultimate accountability lies not in power equations, but in upholding a century-old governance ethos - the belief that capitalism must serve the nation.

One hopes that the trustees see that the underlying philosophy and glidepath for the Tata Trusts is to continue its charity efforts and let Tata Sons contribute financially to these efforts. The dispute amongst the trustees will test the equation between the Tata Trusts and Tata Sons. It will test the board of Directors of Tata Sons. For the Tata Group, this may be a chance to reaffirm that trust, the very word embedded in the name of its apex philanthropic body, remains its strongest asset.

Verstappen wins US Grand Prix

Red Bull's Max Verstappen raced to his third victory in four races at the Formula 1 United States Grand Prix, while McLaren's Lando Norris took a huge chunk out of teammate Oscar Piastri's championship lead by finishing second. Piastri was a distant fifth on Sunday, allowing Norris to pull within 14 points with five grand prix and two sprint races to go

Next Gen shuttlers show spark but hiccups remain

Tanvi's silver medal and mixed team bronze at BWF Championships a welcome result but most juniors still have a steep learning curve

ANMOL GURUNG @ Guwahati

THE last two weeks or so was significant for Indian badminton. It was all about the future, the potential frontrunners that could go on to represent the Indian flag at the elite level. With the country hosting the BWF World Junior Championships in Guwahati (played in a new format this year), it was a rare platform for the country's brightest talents to show their spark.

Away from prying eyes, the young bunch, who had been prudently picked by the Badminton Association of India (BAI), shot to fame after clinching the bronze medal — the country's first-ever — in the mixed team competition. The likes of C Lalramsanga, Hmar Lalthazuala, Vishakha Toppo, to name a few, were some of the fairly unknown talents who caught the eyes of many. Unnati Hooda, who has traded shuttles with double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, had also stepped in to guide the team to the promised land. There was a genuine buzz after that. That was visible in the faces of teenagers ahead of the individual events. The shuttlers had hoped to carry forward the momentum. Ivan Sozonov, India's foreign doubles head coach at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati (NCE), was also filled with optimism.

Tanvi Sharma won silver in the women's singles event | BADMINTON PHOTO

"All the players are good, especially the ones who were selected to be part of the national team. They work hard and they absolutely deserve it. Now, we are waiting for rewards, individual medals," he had told this newspaper during the initial rounds of the individual competitions.

By the time the individual disciplines had reached the quarterfinal stage, India were in contention for as many as five medals. However, that number had reduced to just one at the end of Day 5.

The mood had turned funeral-like in no time with the players entering a brief state of existential crisis. Toppo, who had produced one of the big upsets along with mixed doubles partner Bhavya Chhabra just before their exit, was speechless. Even Unnati stood helpless as she watched her dreams being snatched away by her rival, point after point, during her last-eight stage. Given Unnati's experience, it was indeed an unexpected result.

Men's doubles pairing of Bhargav Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gobburu, whose campaign also ended in the quarterfinals, did show glimpses of their talent.

The saving grace for India was Tanvi Sharma, who finished with a silver medal on Sunday. Tanvi, who was the No 1 seed, was expected to be among the medal contenders.

Women's WC: SL pip B'desh by seven runs

Navi Mumbai: Skipper Chamari Athapaththu produced a dream final over, scalping three wickets to help Sri Lanka beat a spirited Bangladesh by seven runs in a low-scoring thriller in their Women's World Cup match here on Sunday. Sri Lanka, who were under pressure almost throughout the second half after they folded meekly for 202 in 48.5 overs, pipped Bangladesh in the last over of the contest as combative knocks from skipper Nigar Sultana (77) and Sharmin Akhter (64 retired hurt) went in vain.

Bangladesh saw their hopes of making the semifinal also disintegrating as they slipped to the seventh spot and Sri Lanka moving up to the sixth spot with four points, similar to India (fourth) and New Zealand (fifth) with only net run rate separating these teams.

With nine runs needed for win in the final over, Bangladesh certainly left a tad more to score with the game on the line and despite their skipper Sultana being at the crease, Sri Lanka captain Athapaththu pulled it off for her side giving away just one run to keep her side still in contention for the final four. PTI

How Tazmin & Wolvaardt push each other to scale new peaks

GOMESH S @ Chennai

AS Tazmin Brits slapped Piumi Wathsala over the ropes to seal a ten-wicket win in a rain-affected game against Sri Lanka in Colombo on Friday, her opening partner and South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt let out a sigh of relief. Wolvaardt shared a shoulder hug and fist bump with Brits before walking off the field knowing that they have inched closer to sealing the semifinal spot in the Women's Cricket World Cup. It was confirmed a day later when the Pakistan versus New Zealand clash was washed out on Saturday.

Over the last couple of years, it has become a familiar sight. Brits and Wolvaardt sharing fist bumps and laughs in the middle and winning matches for South Africa. Since the beginning of 2023 no other batting pair have made more ODI runs (1705) together than these two have. In fact, individually, Wolvaardt (1638) and Brits (1351) are only behind Smriti Mandhana (1949) among top run-getters in this period. And since 2023, Brits average 46.58 with a strike rate of 89.64 while Wolvaardt operates with 56.48 average and 81.41 strike rate.

This is in contrast to their record till the end of 2022. Wolvaardt, while always being the consistent accumulator, was operating at a strike rate of 68.41 in her first 80 matches (till 2022). Brits, on the other hand, had 229 runs to show for at 19.08 average in 12 innings. Things have changed drastically since. While individually they have given their blood and sweat and everything to upskill themselves, it is hard to ignore how these two extremely contrasting batters have complimented each other, helping them and the team succeed.

Laura Wolvaardt (L) celebrates scoring her half-century with Tazmin Brits | AFP

Wolvaardt is the most text book batter in the world. Brits is unorthodox. Her injuries and operations prevent her from playing certain shots but she is powerful, and can make an impact with the bat. Brits felt that the difference in their approaches helps them a fair bit. "Maybe a bowler doesn't always know how to bowl a certain ball to a certain player. Because we are different in that sense of where we place the ball and how we play the shots. A lot of times, they have to maybe think or change the field," Brits explained. "We have been batting with each other for quite some time. So we feed off each other," she added. What has also helped the duo in this time is the several batting camps they had together with coach Baakier Abrahams.

At the start of the tournament, Brits, who was coming with a purple patch, was worried about law of averages. She got her century in the second game but Wolvaardt took time to get going. The skipper's first fifty came against India before she followed it with another in Colombo on Friday. "It hasn't been the best tournament for me overall. So very nice to hit a few — obviously reduced game. So, I just sort of thought normal T20 plans. So, Taz and I just went out as if it was a normal T20 and both got off to decent starts and just kept going," Wolvaardt said after the match.

Indeed. With a confirmed semifinal spot, the duo has picked up momentum at the right time and will want to take it forward.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Pakistan vs South Africa, Colombo
Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar, 3 PM

FOCUS SHOULD BE ON DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS, NOT JUST HOSTING CWG

FLIPSIDE

INDRANEEL DAS

INDIA is set to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth Sports Executive Board has recommended the name of Amdavad, popularly known as Ahmedabad, as the sole host for the 2030 Games to the general body for approval, which seems to be only a formality. There is some kind of positive anticipation and euphoria among the people. But unlike the previous occasion when India had hosted the 2010 Commonwealth Games, the celebration seems to be muted.

There is a reason for that. Hosting Commonwealth Games no longer is a novelty nor is it a show of strength. Over a period of time, because of the lop-sided competitions in most events, the meaning of competition too had eroded. What seems to be the tipping point at the moment is that no country wants to host it. The last two editions — 2022 and the 2026 — are the two apt examples when nations after bidding declined to host because of rising costs that will have a bearing on the economy of the state or the country. Even a developed country like Australia declined to host when Victoria withdrew its candidature because of high costs. Last year when the Commonwealth Sport came knocking at India's doors they were reluctant to host the 2026 Games. What changed in about six months' time no one knows. The Indian Olympic Association and the Gujarat Government might have a bigger plan in mind — the hosting of 2036 Olympic Games. What seems interesting is that the decision to host the 2036 Olympics will be decided way before the hosting of the Commonwealth Games in Amdavad.

2010 CWG
17 Sports
21 disciplines

Though it is years after 2010, that India would be hosting the Games, the challenged would remain the same. Ahmedabad would need to find more hotels for accommodation. For an India vs Pakistan World Cup match in Ahmedabad hospital beds were allegedly converted into hotels. Though Naranpura has been built, there are other venues that need to be constructed. India are planning to conduct all disciplines that have been dropped from Birmingham and Glasgow (2026) Games.

Past not perfect

Just to jog people's memory, 2010 was one of the worst phases in Indian sports administration. The biggest talking points days before the Commonwealth Games were not where India will finish or how many medals India will win, but the focus was elsewhere, at something much more unsavoury and grim. Toilet rolls allegedly purchased at a cost of high-end pair of jeans, pathetic condition of the Games Village and incomplete venues. Swiss Timing, the official time keeper, scoring and result management firm in 2010 was embroiled in another alleged corruption mess, a foot overbridge collapse next to the iconic JN Stadium were some of the incidents that made international headlines.

Narendra Modi Stadium may host opening ceremony if 2030 CWG is held in India

India at Olympics after 2010 CWG

2012 London: Two silver and four bronze

2016 Rio: One silver and one bronze

2020 Tokyo: One gold, two silver and four bronze

2024 Paris: One silver and five bronze

In fact, even when the Games were about to begin another sinister story started to break. Organisers had to 'appoint' dog-catchers who descended on the Village to remove errant, bed-hopping strays. If that was not enough some of the foreign delegates, perhaps not trusting India's ability to clean up, scrubbed up and down their athletes' accommodation themselves.

A bunch of tiles in the false ceiling of the weightlifting arena, again next to the JN stadium, collapsed. Close on the heels, two internal balloons intended to provide stability to the huge Aerostat balloon, Rs 50 crore 80m by 40m, 12m helium showpiece placed at the stadium, were made unstable by the wind and malfunctioned. Once the Games began, it was all about sport. But once over, it was all about mismanagement, corruption charges and everything negative. Hopefully this will be avoided this time.

Anyways, the last two editions of the Games had been minimalistic. And there is no reason for India to change this. It will be prudent to focus on improving our sporting acumen than investing on infrastructure that would lie unused.

Organising committee next

The challenge would be setting up of the organising committee as well. The Indian Olympic Association, which came together to give its nod to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games at the last moment, is still a fractured house. It is not too long ago when majority of the executive committee members revolted against its president PT Usha for appointing Raghuram Iyer as the Chief Executive Officer. Though the EC members met to clear his appointment in September, the lack of trust among members still prevails.

The CEO, with all his power, would be integral in bringing everyone together. He will also be pivotal in formulating plan that would offset the expenditure which will be incurred during the Games and will run into thousand of crores. The formation of an organizing committee with Gujarat government, IOA and sports ministry officials in it will not be easy.

Sporting power

The focus should be on sport. The 2010 CWG led to a big leap at the London Olympics. Sports ministry has already started various schemes including its flagship programme for elite sportspersons — Target Olympic Podium Scheme. But as of now it has not yielded desired results. The number of the medals at the Paris Olympics were six without a gold. This was as big a haul as London in 2012. At the 2020 Tokyo Olympics held in 2021, India managed to win seven medals that included one gold. India have been stagnant since then and two of the sports — badminton and boxing — that yielded India medals earlier drew blank.

It is more than a year since the Paris Games, and going by various results at the international arena, India have not improved at all. Perhaps it's time to push the reset button. The schemes need a massive overhaul. It is time to invest on new players. Otherwise, by LA 2028 the medals tally will only slide. If India do not manage to win medals in double figures by 2032 Olympics then there is no point hosting the Olympics or even the Commonwealth Games. The whole meaning will be lost.

European nights await

WITH CHAMPIONS LEAGUE RESUMING AFTER THE INTERNATIONAL BREAK, A LOOK..

BARCA LOOK TO MAKE AMENDS

Post their defeat at home to holders Paris Saint Germain, five-time winners Barcelona will be keen on making amends, as Greek side Olympiacos visit on Tuesday night in the Champions league. The Greek side are one of two teams yet to score this season. With Lamine Yamal returning from injury, expect the Blaugrana to put on a strong show.

Barcelona vs Olympiacos (10.15 pm IST, Tuesday)

ANOTHER ENGLISH TEST FOR ATLETICO

Diego Simeone's Atletico Madrid travel to England again, this time to face Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium. After heartbreak against Liverpool last month, Simeone's men will expect another tough challenge against the Gunners. The hosts, meanwhile, have won their first two Champions League ties so far.

Arsenal vs Atletico Madrid (12.30 am IST, Wed)

OTHER FIXTURES
12:30 AM IST (WEDNESDAY)

Bayer Leverkusen vs PSG, Newcastle United vs Benfica, Villareal vs Manchester City, PSV vs Napoli, Copenhagen vs Borussia Dortmund, Union SG vs Inter.

LALIGA

Mbappe scores again to send Real to top in 1-0 win

GETAFE, Spain: Kylian Mbappe continued his impressive scoring streak as his 10th goal in nine league games earned Real Madrid a 1-0 win at Getafe on Sunday and sent his side back to the top of the LaLiga in a game where the hosts finished with nine men. Real struggled to find a way past a stubborn Getafe until Allan Nyom was sent off 13 minutes from time, one minute after coming off the bench, and Mbappe scored three minutes later. Alex Sancris was then sent off for a second booking before the end. Real are on 24 points, two ahead of Barcelona and the top two will go head-to-head in next Sunday's El Clasico. Getafe are 12th in the standings on 11 points. "We're very happy with Kylian Mbappe," Real manager Xabi Alonso told reporters. "Goals win you games, but I don't like people saying we depend on Mbappe, there's a lot of hard work behind it. Alonso continued his habit of rotating the starting side, leaving both Vinicius Jr and Arda Guler on the bench.

FIFA World Cup at a glance

List of teams already qualified for the 48-team 2026 WC as of last round.

Host nations
Canada, Mexico, United States

Africa
Algeria, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia

Asia
Australia, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Uzbekistan

Europe
England (in pic)

Oceania
New Zealand

South America
Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay

WHERE EUROPEAN NATIONS STAND

12 group winners qualify for 2026 World Cup in United States, Canada and Mexico. Second-placed teams and four remaining teams with highest Nations League rankings qualify for a two-round playoff

Group A

Team	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	Pts
Germany	4	3	0	1	8	3	9
Slovakia	4	3	0	1	5	2	9
N Ireland	4	2	0	2	6	5	6
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	1	10	0

Group B

Switzerland	4	3	1	0	9	0	10
Kosovo	4	2	1	1	3	4	7
Slovenia	4	0	2	1	2	5	3
Sweden	4	0	1	3	2	7	1

Group C

Denmark	4	3	1	0	12	1	10
Scotland	4	3	1	0	7	2	10
Greece	4	1	0	3	7	10	3
Belarus	4	0	0	4	2	15	0

Group D

France	4	3	1	0	9	3	10
Ukraine	4	2	1	1	8	7	7
Iceland	4	1	1	2	11	9	4
Azerbaijan	4	0	1	3	2	1	1

Group E

Spain	4	4	0	0	15	0	12
Turkey	4	3	0	1	13	10	9
Georgia	4	1	0	3	6	9	3
Bulgaria	4	0	0	4	1	16	0

Group F

Portugal	4	3	1	0	11	4	10
Hungary	4	1	2	1	8	7	5
Ireland	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Armenia	4	1	0	3	2	9	3

Group G

Netherlands	6	5	1	0	22	3	16
Poland	6	4	1	1	10	4	13
Finland	7	3	1	3	8	13	10
Lithuania	7	0	3	4	6	11	3
Malta	6	0	2	4	1	16	2

Group H

Austria	6	5	0	1	19	3	15
Bosnia-Herzegovina	6	4	1	1	13	5	13
Romania	6	3	1	2	11	6	10
Cyprus	7	2	2	3	11	9	8
San Marino	7	0	0	7	1	32	0

Group I

Norway	6	6	0	0	29	3	18
Italy	6	5	0	1	18	8	15
Israel	7	3	0	4	15	19	9
Estonia	7	1	1	5	7	17	4
Moldova	6	0	1	5	4	26	1

Group J

Belgium	6	4	2	0	21	6	14
N Macedonia	7	3	4	0	12	3	13
Wales	6	3	1	2	13	10	10
Kazakhstan	7	2	1	4	8	12	7
Liechtenstein	6	0	0	6	0	23	0

Group K

England (Q)	6	6	0	0	18	0	18
Albania	6	3	2	1	6	3	11
Serbia	6	3	1	2	7	7	10
Latvia	7	1	2	4	4	13	5
Andorra	7	0	1	6	3	15	1

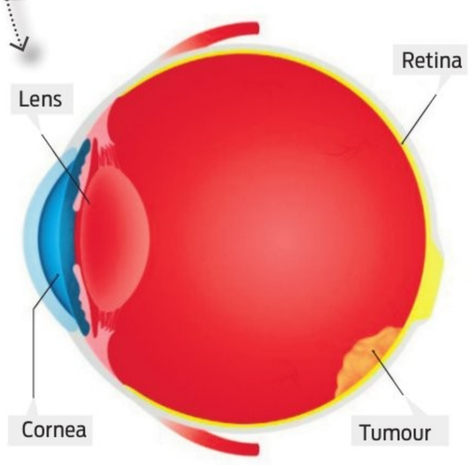
Group L

Croatia	6	5	1	0	20	1	16
Czech Republic	7	4	1	2	12	8	13
Faroe Islands	7	4	0	3	10	6	12
Montenegro	6	2	0	4	4	13	6
Gibraltar	6	0	0	6	2	20	0

Retinoblastoma occurs due to a mutation in one of the genes in the retinal cells of the eye. In some children, more than one family member is affected, and the mutation is inherited, while in others, the mutation can occur very early in life and affect both eyes of the child

RETINOBLASTOMA

THIS EYE CANCER CAN AFFECT KIDS AS YOUNG AS 4 YRS



SYMPTOMS

■ A white colour in the centre circle of the eye when exposed to light ■ It may appear in flash photos ■ Eye redness ■ Eye swelling ■ Eyes that seem to be looking in different directions ■ Vision loss

Treatment options

■ Chemotherapy ■ Radiation therapy ■ **Focal therapies:** cryotherapy, thermotherapy, laser therapy, etc. ■ **Surgery:** Surgery is most likely when there's a risk of retinoblastoma spreading. This usually involves a surgery, such as enucleation, in which the eye is removed. This prevents the cancer from spreading further

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

EVERY year, nearly 1,500-2,000 children in India develop retinoblastoma. This rare and fast-growing eye cancer begins in the retina and affects young children, often under the age of four years.

According to a 2022 Lancet study, India has the highest retinoblastoma incidence (about 2,000 cases per year), which is nearly 50% more than China (around 1,000 cases per year) and six times more than the US (approximately 325 cases per year).

Though retinoblastoma is the most common paediatric eye cancer, the delay in diagnosis and poor access to care can cause the disease to present at an advanced stage, decreasing the possibility of saving the eye and the life of the child. According to Dr Manas Kalra, senior pediatric oncologist at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi, the incidence of retinoblastoma is 1 in 15,000 to 20,000 live births in India.

Symptoms

The most common symptom of retinoblastoma is a white pupil or white spot in the eye that appears in flash photography. "However, not all children with retinoblastoma exhibit this sign," said Dr Kalra, who recently featured in the popular Kapil Sharma show with young cancer warriors, one as young as two-years-old. Other retinoblastoma symptoms may include squinting (crossed eyes), changes in iris colour, redness or swelling of the eye, and eye pain or discomfort.

According to Dr Sima Das, director of oculoplasty and ocular oncology at Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, Delhi, retinoblastoma can be easily diagnosed by an eye specialist through a clinic-based eye examination, and examinations like MRI scans and ultrasounds are also typically done for these children. Though it is rare, retinoblastoma can be detected if parents are aware of the eye cancer, added Dr Simakurthy Sriram, CMO and consultant VitreoRetina, Sankara Eye Hospital, Hyderabad.

The best way to detect if the child is suffering from the disease is if they have reduced vision, are not walking properly, frequently bump into objects, or have an unexplained red, painful eye or recurrent red and painful eye. Another symptom is if one eyeball is larger than the other eye, or if there is clouding of the front part of an eyeball, or bulging eyes.

Cause

Retinoblastoma occurs due to a mutation in one of the genes in the retinal cells of the eye. In some children, more than one family member is affected, and the mutation is inherited, while in others, the mutation can occur very early in life and affect both eyes of the child. In the majority of children, however, the mutation happens only in the retinal cells of one eye and thus affects one eye of the child.

While retinoblastoma can occur in any child, several factors increase the risk of developing the disease. "Children with a family history of retinoblastoma are at higher risk, as are those with certain genetic conditions like neurofibromatosis or Li-Fraumeni syndrome. Premature babies and children exposed to radiation are also at a greater risk of developing retinoblastoma," Dr Kalra said.

Delayed diagnosis

According to the Lancet article, retinoblastoma is curable through early diagnosis and protocol-based management. However, in India, this childhood cancer of the eye often goes undetected due to delayed diagnosis.

A latest study, published in the Indian Journal of Ophthalmology, states that one fourth of all retinoblastoma diagnosed in children in India have spread outside the eye by the time they get their first medical consultation. The study conducted in 20 centres across the country found that the mean lag time from symptom onset to treatment initiation for newly diagnosed retinoblastoma cases was 4.2 months.

Parental, diagnosis and treatment lag time contributed to 44%, 26%, and 31% of the total lag time, respectively. The reasons were - lower socio economic status, increased distance from the treatment centre, younger maternal age at pregnancy, family history of cancer, first consultation with a non specialist, and negative correlation with improved maternal education. According to Dr Das, who is also the lead author of the study, "With timely and early diagnosis, it is possible to treat this cancer completely. If left untreated, this cancer can be fatal, like any other cancer." Dr Pragya Shukla, HOD in Clinical Oncology, Delhi State Cancer Institute, says "there is a huge lack of awareness in the community as well as in the medical fraternity regarding the disease, as unfortunately our MBBS curriculum doesn't concretely address oncology. "This leads to a great delay till the patient reaches an oncologist for treatment."

Dr Bhavya Reddy, consultant, ophthalmology, Aster Whitefield, Bangalore, said that delayed diagnosis can be attributed to low awareness, especially among rural populations who often have home births and do not routinely receive paediatrician check-ups. And even when done, paediatric checkups sometimes may not include an ophthalmological evaluation, which is the basic white reflex that is to be looked out for.

She also pointed out gender bias, religious beliefs, and social stigma that delay or obstruct early diagnosis and quick treatment.

Risk factors

Retinoblastoma predominantly affects children - both girls and boys - under the age of four to five years. There are certain heritable forms of retinoblastoma where the risk is much higher in children with a parent who has had the congenital form of retinoblastoma. This often results in bilateral tumours.

With most children, there's usually no family history of the disease. However, when a parent has had a heritable form of retinoblastoma, there is a one in two chance that they will eventually pass on the RB1 gene to their children. Parents who have had retinoblastoma should consider genetic counselling before having children to learn about the risks of passing on the gene. "For them, the option of IVF is available as healthy embryos can be implanted," Dr Reddy added.

There are also environmental risk factors. "Certain studies have suggested maternal exposure during pregnancy to chemicals, such as fuels like diesel, radiation exposure in fathers, older age in fathers during conception, and a diet lacking in fruits and vegetables for mothers during pregnancy, leading to eye cancer," she added.

Treatment

While the development of retinoblastoma tumours cannot be prevented, it is possible to screen the eyes of children who are at high risk of developing retinoblastoma. Tumours can be detected at a very early stage and treated promptly.

According to Dr Kalra, as retinoblastoma is caused by a mutation in cells of the body, the mutation can be detected in the intrauterine stage of pregnancy via prenatal diagnostic procedures. "Those with a positive mutation detected via prenatal diagnosis have a high risk of the baby developing this cancer, and the option of continuing or discontinuing the pregnancy can be discussed with the family," he added.

Dr Shukla said the treatment for retinoblastoma varies according to the stage at which the disease is detected. "The aim is to save the life of the child, preserve vision in the affected eye, and prevent it from spreading to other parts of the body."

"India is at par, if not ahead of the world, in the treatment of cancer. What we are lagging in is screening and early detection of the disease," he added. The treatment includes chemotherapy - systemic, intra-arterial, or intravitreal – in which three different routes are explored to administer chemotherapy.

Also available are focal therapies, such as cryotherapy, thermotherapy, plaque radiotherapy, or external-beam radiotherapy. In this approach, treatments target a specific tumour site to spare surrounding healthy tissues. In advanced cases, surgery is performed to remove the eye, a procedure known as enucleation. In this procedure, the entire eyeball is surgically removed from the orbit and separated from all its attachments, including the optic nerve, which carries signals from both eyes to the brain.

After surgery, a customised prosthetic eye is fitted. "Nowadays, excellent prostheses are available, and children look very normal," Dr Das said. If retinoblastoma is detected early, the child can be completely cured of the disease. "However, the child needs frequent follow-up till they attain adulthood, as children with a genetic mutation in the retinoblastoma gene are prone to other cancers, such as sarcoma," added Dr Sriram.

MYTH BUSTERS

Dr Murali Krishnan M

On Colon cancer

Consultant gastroenterologist, District Hospital, Malappuram

Myth: Colonoscopy is the only way to screen for colon cancer

Fact: There are other screening methods such as FOPT (fecal occult blood test) – usually done over 3 days, FIT (fecal immunochemical test), sigmoidoscopy – a shorter scope exam than colonoscopy.

Myth: Colonoscopy is a painful or dangerous procedure

Fact: It is a safe and mostly painless procedure. It's usually done under sedation and takes only 8-10 minutes.

Myth: If you have no symptoms, you don't need to get screened

Fact: You still need screening. Colon cancer often begins as small, harmless polyps. These can be found and removed during a colonoscopy, preventing them from turning into cancer — sometimes five to 10 years in advance.

Myth: It's too late to get screened after the age of 70

Fact: Not necessarily. If you are in good health, screening can still be done up to age 75, and in some cases even up to age 80.

Myth: It only affects men

Fact: Colon cancer is slightly more common in men, possibly due to lifestyle factors, but it affects both men and women. There's also an increasing trend in younger people.

Myth: Lifestyle doesn't have much impact on colon cancer risk

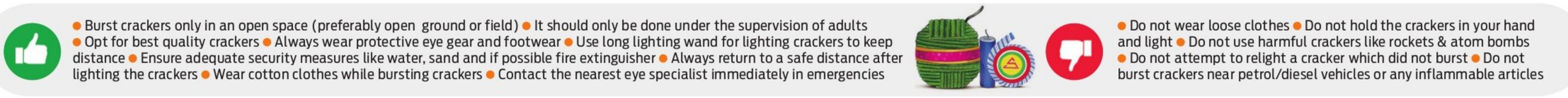
Fact: Risk increases with smoking, alcohol consumption, eating processed foods and red meat.

— COMPILED BY UNNIKRISHNAN S

NEWS CAPSULE

High risk of depression in women linked to genetics

Genetic factors contribute more to depression risk in females than in males, according to a large Australian study that may help further understanding of why women are more likely to suffer from the condition. Analyzing DNA samples from nearly half a million people, researchers found roughly twice as many genetic 'flags' for depression in females compared with males, the research team reported in Nature Communications. "Until now, there hasn't been much consistent research to explain why depression affects females and males differently, including the possible role of genetics," study leader Dr Brittany Mitchell of QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Brisbane said. The team identified about 7,000 changes in DNA that could cause depression in both sexes, and about a further 6,000 DNA changes that could cause depression in females only. Agencies



● Burst crackers only in an open space (preferably open ground or field) ● It should only be done under the supervision of adults ● Opt for best quality crackers ● Always wear protective eye gear and footwear ● Use long lighting wand for lighting crackers to keep distance ● Ensure adequate security measures like water, sand and if possible fire extinguisher ● Always return to a safe distance after lighting the crackers ● Wear cotton clothes while bursting crackers ● Contact the nearest eye specialist immediately in emergencies

● Do not wear loose clothes ● Do not hold the crackers in your hand and light ● Do not use harmful crackers like rockets & atom bombs ● Do not attempt to relight a cracker which did not burst ● Do not burst crackers near petrol/diesel vehicles or any inflammable articles

Light crackers with caution for a Happy Deepavali

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai/Kochi/Tiruchy

PICS: ASHWIN PRASATH

AS the country celebrates Deepavali on Monday, doctors are urging the public, particularly children, to take precautions against cracker-related eye injuries.

There has been an increased incidence of cracker injuries of the eye in the last few years, mainly because of the negligence by parents and the failure to follow the protocols while bursting crackers, says Dr Mohan Rajan, chairman and medical director, Rajan Eye Care Hospital. "The injuries referred to our hospital range from minimal injuries like corneal abrasions and lid injuries to major injuries like traumatic cataract, corneal tear, retinal detachment, vitreous hemorrhage and rupture globe," he said.

Most of the firecracker injuries occur in adolescents less than 25 years of age, who indulge most in bursting crackers, without following the safety norms. "Most of the injuries we treat are avoidable," said Dr Parthiban Purushothaman, head of ophthalmology at KAP Viswanatham Government Medical College-MGMGH. "They are not caused by direct blasts but by tiny particles entering the eye. Parents should ensure that children light crackers in open areas and maintain a safe distance."

"It is unfortunate that innocent pedestrians are also affected due to the negligence of one such group. Ocular injuries in this age group result, not only in a physical disability but also affects psychologically leading to personality disorders creating a barrier for future opportunities of success," Dr Rajan added.

Doctors pointed to three major causes behind cracker-related eye injuries. The first stems from high-sound crackers, which generate intense shock waves that propel fine dust and tiny stone particles into the eyes. The second involves high-flame fireworks such as pencil, chakra, and flower pot, whose sparks can instantly burn or injure the cornea when ignited at close range.

The third is the practice of burning leftover crackers together at the end of the celebration, often causing sudden flares or mini-explosions that injure children and onlookers. "We should take general safety measures. The items should be of a good brand, and company assurance should be ensured. Also, firecrackers should only be used in open spaces," said Dr Aneeta Jabbar, senior cornea specialist at Little Flower Hospital, Angamaly.

According to Dr Aneeta, in case of accidents and injuries, immediate medical attention should be provided. "Most of the time, people tend to use water to wash their eyes or press their eyes. However, without medical attention, we cannot identify the nature of the injury. It can be a conjunctival, corneal, or scleral injury. Thus, washing or pressing can cause further damage. Also, if any particles enter the eyes, it is better to consult a doctor to remove them from the eye," she said.

According to doctors at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital in Tiruchy, six out of every 10 cracker injuries reported every Deepavali involve injury to the eyes. Over 15 such cases were treated in 2024 alone, with many of them arriving late by as much as a week.

Doctors have also warned against common home remedies such as applying castor oil or over-the-counter drops directly to the eyes. "These methods often delay treatment and increase the risk of infection or corneal damage," the ophthalmologist added.

"Basic first aid measures should be in place. We also need to be careful about disposal, because explosion of used firecrackers can lead to serious eye injuries. Spectators should maintain a safe distance and wear protective goggles," Dr Aneeta said.

She also urged parents not to allow children near firecracker areas without adult supervision.

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DAY'S DIARY

Book release

In 1992, Madonna's book *Sex* was released worldwide and sold an estimated 700,000 copies on its first day

THE LOOK

The 128-page book features graphic photographs of the singer simulating a wide range of sexual acts. The New York imprint arrived in a silver Mylar sealed sleeve protecting it from damage and preventing viewing until purchased

EXCLUSIVE

Madonna described the book as an accompaniment to her studio album, *Erotica*. An exclusive remix of her single of the same name came free with the book

CONTROVERSY

Sex received a polarised response from the public and critics. The book was banned in some places, such as Ireland

The art of lighting up skies

PG 3

Here's a deep dive into the roots of Bhoota Kola, a Tulu tradition that has become the talk of the town post the release of *Kantara*

Rishab Shetty in the Bhoota Kola avatar in *Kantara*

SPIRITED AWAY

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

WITH actor Rishab Shetty's captivating depiction of the bhoota aradhane or daivaradhane tradition in *Kantara*, the spirit worship practice has catapulted to mainstream attention all over the state. With the release of the film's sequel, *Kantara A Legend: Chapter 1*, the fascination over the folk tradition reached new levels, with videos showing fans impersonating the 'spirit avatar'. Following this, the makers requested the audience not to indulge in impersonations out of respect for the centuries-old tradition, which is significant to communities in Tulu Nadu.

Kannada Development Authority chairman and researcher Purushothama Bilimale points to the 14th and 15th centuries as the origin of the daiva aradhane tradition.

"This is the time when the agrarian sector took over from shifting agriculture and the concept of private land ownership emerged in coastal Karnataka. During that time, forest-dwelling communities lost land ownership and it was occupied by Jain agriculturists," says Bilimale, pointing out that while the first movie dealt with similar themes of land and caste conflict, the sequel is 'historically inaccurate'.

"There is no relationship between the history of the Kadambas who ruled in the fourth and fifth centuries and bhootas." This shift resulted in a social conflict that is often reflected in the origin stories of deities recorded in 'pardanas' or oral epics told through singing. "Some deities like Panjurli (the boar deity in *Kantara*) are animistic, but a major category are human deities, who led a life of fighting against injustice and died an untimely death, attaining deity status," explains former vice-chancellor of Karnataka Folklore University K Chinnappa Gowda. The deities then go on to take revenge on wrong-doers or protect their devotees.

Bilimale elaborates, saying, "Most of the bhootas hail from the lower strata of society. For example, there is a deity called Kalkuda Kallurti, who is part of the community of sculptors. The story goes that he was asked to build a gommata by the King, but the latter told his servants to cut off the sculptor's right hand and left leg so he could not build any other gommatas. He dies by suicide and becomes a daiva."

Researcher Chithra Kallur adds, "There are around 500 different bhootas or daivas documented so far but there may be many smaller spirit deities that likely haven't been documented yet. These daivas are also divided into hierarchies and different communities like the pambadas, paravas and nalikes impersonate different deities."

Attending the ritual

Despite the deeply spiritual nature of the kola, it is an open-door practice where respectful visitors who want to experience them are welcome. "On the day of the kola, the entire village gathers. As a researcher, I have benefited from being an outsider, who are the first to be called upon by the daiva and blessed when addressing the devotees," he says. But how does one attend a kola if they happen to find themselves in the Tulu region? Kallur says, "The season for kola starts after Deepavali and goes on till May. Each 'sthana' has a fixed time of the year when kolas are organised. In December, you're bound to find banners announcing a kola or nema in Mangaluru."

Glimpses from Bhoota Kola rituals

Impersonating the deity

Unlike folk theatre and dance forms like Yakshagana, Dollu Kunitha or Veeragase that periodically see performances in the city, this has not been the case with Bhoota Kola due to the spiritual nature of the practice, where the performer is possessed by the deity. This seems to be at the core of why fans of the film impersonating it have upset believers of the tradition. Kallur says, "You have to perform it on a specific day and there's a ritualistic process of impersonating the deity. It involves putting on makeup, paraphernalia, the family singing the diety's pardana and finally, the mask being handed over to the performer. There's also a systematic process of the deity leaving the body. It is a ritual that is at the core of the belief system of Tulu culture."

Apart from the music, dance and storytelling serving as an outlet for the community's frustrations, at the core of the kola is also the deity's conversation with devotees.

"The oracle speaks fearlessly. It could be problems of the community or the family – the bhoota delivers justice and this tradition acts as a folk judicial system," explains Gowda. Bilimale adds, "Temporarily, people of the 'lower caste' become deities and have complete control over society. But after the performance, they go back to working under the zamindar. It's an outlet for anger, but afterwards, things go on as usual."

SRUTHI HEMACHANDRAN

TOYTOPIA CALLING!

Varnam Craft Collective, known for reimagining the Channapatna toy craft from the state, unveils a playful new chapter in handmade India

THERE'S a quiet satisfaction on Karthik Vaidyanathan's face as he watches visitors pause, smile and reach out to touch the whimsical characters that fill Sabha's hall. Around him, giraffes in pearls, dreamy pandas and gentle crocodiles seem to come alive, their bright colours and soft curves telling stories of craft, imagination and care. With The Snugglewalas: Storytellers of Handmade India, Varnam Craft Collective's founder-principal designer unveils his most ambitious showcase yet.

For over 14 years, Vaidyanathan has been reimagining Channapatna's 200-year-old toy craft. But this time, he has created an entire universe. "I came from a background in radio, music and the world of entertainment before I found my way into the field of craft. Storytelling has always been at the heart of how I approach design. The Snugglewalas has been a dream since the beginning, to create a family of toys with human-like personalities who tell stories of craft. That little seed of an idea finally blossomed this year," he says.

Each character feels familiar, from Miss Neckles, the poised giraffe with Audrey Hepburn's grace, to Sir Woolsworth, the black sheep who dares to be different. "Anyone who spends time with the Snugglewalas' family will likely see a bit of themselves, a friend or a loved one in one of these characters. That, to me, is the real magic. It feels deeply personal, no matter who you are," he smiles. The exhibit brings together 12 craft clusters from across India, from Kashmir's naqqashi enamel art and crewel embroidery to Rajasthan's block prints and Tamil Nadu's Lambadi embroidery, each reimagined through the Snugglewalas' stories. "Our crafts and artisans are incredibly adaptable. They just need a little nudge and a dash of passion to make them shine," he says. "Design is only as good as its brief, and when the brief is born from a story, it gains soul."

At the heart of this project lies collaboration. Vaidyanathan credits both artisans and a group of young design interns who helped bring the characters to life. "True creativity thrives when you create a playground filled with ideas, imagination and passion. We have always believed in showing young designers the bigger picture and giving them ownership, and that joy is visible in every piece."

More than an exhibit, The Snugglewalas feels like a movement, a hopeful, handmade future where storytelling and design meet with empathy. "Every handmade object already carries a story. My role is to give it a contemporary language so more people can listen," says Vaidyanathan.

Karthik Vaidyanathan

As the characters prepare to travel to Hyderabad in November after the city show, he looks ahead with quiet optimism. "Hopefully, this is just the beginning, a way to make Indian craft more accessible, relatable and relevant to a whole new generation. When storytelling is done with empathy, it does not dilute the handmade, it amplifies its voice," he shares, as more characters and stories from the collective take shape behind the scenes, with a few playful surprises waiting to unfold in the next chapter.

(The whimsical world of The Snugglewalas will be on display at Sabha, Kamaraj Road until October 25)

PICS: SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

CITY READ

Abriel Grossi brings jazz magic to city

Windmills is hosting Brazilian harmonica virtuoso Gabriel Grossi for a special weekend of jazz and instrumental brilliance. To be held on October 24 and 25 at Windmills, the event's line-up also includes Eduardo Farias (keyboard) and Cassius Theperson (drums). A celebrated composer, producer and performer, Grossi has collaborated with legends like Hermeto Pascoal, Milton Nascimento, Chico Buarque, Jacob Collier and Snarky Puppy. Formerly part of the Hamilton de Holanda Quintet, he has released 15 acclaimed albums blending jazz, forro and Brazilian popular music. The rates for seating and standing tickets are ₹2,000 and ₹750, respectively. For details, call 080 45217761.

Free health camp held for auto drivers

Rotary Bangalore Midtown, in association with Khivraj Elixir, Adwitiya Projects, Vitthala Prabha Eye Clinic and Eyesense, organised a two-day free health and eye camp for Bengaluru auto drivers on October 17 and 18 to provide essential medical care and support. The initiative offered free vision and health screenings, corrective glasses, cataract surgeries and a ₹5 lakh personal accident and disability insurance cover. Over 331 auto drivers benefited, with Rotary aiming to reach 2,000 drivers citywide in the coming months. Leaders Rtn Vinay Choradia, Rtn Roopamouli, and Rtn Ajeet Kandachar highlighted the initiative's focus on community well-being and grassroots impact.

Howard Dawber, Deputy Mayor of London, Business & Growth, tells *CE* what caught his eye during his visit here

'We could bottle some entrepreneurial spirit'

VIDYA IYENGAR

HALF of London's university graduates now want to start their businesses, but the UK's startup culture, **Howard Dawber**, Deputy Mayor of London, Business & Growth, and Chair of London and Partners, notes, could use a shot of Bengaluru's energy.

That's one reason he sees India's tech capital not just as a trade partner and beyond, but a source of inspiration. "If we could bottle some of that entrepreneurial spirit and bring it back, we absolutely would," Dawber tells us over a cup of masala chai at The Taj West End, wrapping up his two-day visit to the city. His schedule in India was packed with a series of meetings with investors, giving a keynote address and doing interviews, on the back of British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's recent visit to India.

Beyond this buzz, Dawber takes stock of the pace of Bengaluru's startup scene. "Not that we don't have phenomenal innovation happening in London," he clarifies. "But the pace at which people turn ideas into business here is really impressive and the energy of the place is [contagious]," he says.

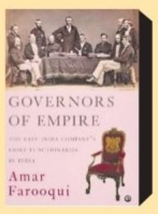
Dawber points out the need to prepare the next generation of entrepreneurs, for which he feels youngsters in school need to be taught how to start and run businesses, because many of them now want to do just that. "The traditional career route of joining a big bank or corporation is no longer the default choice for UK graduates, unlike even 20 years ago," he observes, adding, "India's doing something right in that space and we want to learn from it."

Talking of energy, he notes another form, this one quite in contrast to the first. During a two-hour car ride through city traffic, Dawber experienced first-hand the inefficiencies in daily commutes and the lost productivity that comes with it. "I saw a lot of people sitting in cars and wasting time. You cannot build a city of the future like Bengaluru already is," he says, adding, "We've made progress in getting people out of cars and onto public transport or bikes." He cites the example of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) as a success story. The policy charges high-emission vehicles £15 a day to enter central London, while offering subsidies to help low-income residents switch to cleaner options. "We've spent £117 million helping people buy new, low-emission vans," he says, adding, "As a result, we reached UN legal air quality levels in nine years when we were actually told it would take 193 years."

With the US tightening its visa policies, he finds it an apt time to attract Indian students. "There's a massive opportunity now with the crackdown, which has been absolutely the mainstay of Silicon Valley for ages. There's an opportunity there for us to take advantage of, which we absolutely should. So let's be clear, we want our Indian friends who come to London to study, to stay on and be part of the economy," he says.

As global barriers rise in some regions, Dawber says London is moving in the opposite direction, open to connection and collaboration, and Bengaluru is exactly the kind of place they want to do that with.

BOOK NOOK



Governors of Empire: The East India Company's Chief Functionaries in India

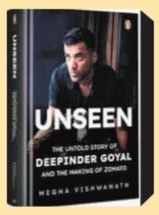
by Amar Farooqui

A story of the East India Company's conquest of India through the lives and deeds of its governors.

The Weeds that Grow in Cemeteries

by Nirmal Ghosh

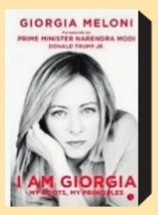
The poet examines how the nature of time changes in the aftermath of loss and how love transforms the seasons.



Unseen: The Untold Story of Deepinder Goyal and the making of Zomato

by Megha Vishwanath

Vishwanath reconstructs the Zomato's journey constantly rebuilding itself in real time.



I Am Giorgia: My Roots, My Principles

by Giorgia Meloni

In this deeply personal and revealing memoir about identity, Giorgia Meloni-Italy's first female Prime Minister shares her story in her own words.

CLICKING CONVERSATIONS

Visitors, as they analyse the Chinese photographic exhibition, on account of the 76th anniversary of the People's Republic of China and the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China, at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath | KEVIN NASHON

QUICKFIX

RAGI MUNCH

INGREDIENTS

Ingredients

- **Ragi (finger millet) flour:** 1 cup
- **Sugar:** 1/2 cup
- **Cocoa powder:** 2 tbsp
- **Ghee or butter:** 2 tbsp
- **Milk (adjust as needed for dough consistency):** 1/4 cup

METHOD

- In a bowl, combine ragi flour, cocoa powder, and jaggery.
- Pour in melted ghee and mix until the texture becomes crumbly.
- Add milk gradually and knead into a smooth, firm dough.
- Roll out the dough thinly, cut into small choco shapes, and bake at 180Â°C for 12-15 minutes until crisp.
- Let them cool completely before storing in an airtight container.

Contributed by **Reshma Syed,** Bengaluru

NOWSTREAMING

REGIONAL

RIPPAN SWAMY (Kannada)

A rural village in Snana Kopa is shaken when Rippan Swamy's mysterious suicide leads to buried secrets surfacing, questioning everything about his identity and death.

Cast: Vijay Raghavendra, Ashwini Chandrashekar, Prakash Thuminad

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

AABHYANTHARA KUTTAVAALI (Malayalam)

A man in troubled second marriage faces divorce complications when legal battles spiral with false domestic violence and dowry claims, turning the justice system itself into a form of punishment.

Cast: Asif Ali, Sreeja Das, Shreya Rukmini

- **Watch on:** ZEE5

FOREIGN

THE TWITS (English)

When the meanest, nastiest villains pull a trick to take over their town, two brave children team up with a family of magical animals to bring them down.

Cast: Emilia Clarke, Natalie Portman, Johnny Vegas

- **Watch on:** Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION

Netflix:	₹ 199/month
Prime Video:	₹ 299/month
Jio Cinema:	₹ 999/year
Disney+ Hotstar:	₹ 899/year
Zee5:	₹ 699/year
Viki Rakuten:	₹ 299/month
Aha:	₹ 699/year
SonyLIV:	₹ 299/month

FITBIT

STRETCH IT OUT RIGHT

Whether you're working on weight loss or building strength, you've definitely done at least one variation of a lunge! A popular functional exercise, it's usually associated with lower-body workouts. But there's more to this movement than just strengthening your legs. Lunges engage the quadriceps, glutes, hamstrings, calves, along with the back and abdominal muscles too!

WHAT ARE LUNGES?

In the context of fitness, a lunge is any action that involves the movement of one leg while the other remains stationary. The motion of the free leg can be in any direction —forward, backwards, sideways or across.

THE RIGHT WAY TO DO A BASIC LUNGE:

Though there are many lunge variations, there's one basic form that you must master:
The forward lunge.

Step 1: Keep your feet hip-width apart

Step 2: Take a big step forward. You should now have one leg forward and the other back

Step 3: Ensure the forward foot is flat on the ground while your hind heel is off the ground

Step 4: Lower yourself as you bend your forward knee to approximately 90 degrees, while keeping your core engaged throughout

Step 5: Push yourself back on your feet to step one and repeat

Step 6: Alternate with your other leg too

Pro tip: If you find stationary forward lunges confusing or awkward, try walking lunges!

BENEFITS

- **Improves balance and stability:** As lunges are a single-leg movement exercise, they require you to work independently on each side of your body. This trains your muscles to develop balance, joint stability and coordination.
- **Minimises risk of injury:** Lunges often feature in rehabilitation plans for those recovering from any form of injury. The stability-improving and muscle-strengthening nature of lunges helps the body handle heavy loads efficiently. This minimises risk of injury in the long run.
- **Enables hip flexibility:** There are very few movements that engage your hip flexors. Lunges are one of them. They also enhance joint strength and improve your form for other exercises like squats and deadlifts.
- **Enhances muscle growth:** Lunges, being unilateral exercises, add challenge to your strength workouts and engage several muscles in your legs, backs and abdomen. So if you're looking to grow your muscles, especially in your lower body, lunges are the way to go!
- **Supports weight loss:** Muscle-building is an efficient and smart way to burn fat. Lunges target large muscle groups, making them a great exercise for weight loss.

SOME TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND

- Ensure your front knees don't exceed your toes
- Don't raise your front heel off the ground
- Keep your back straight and don't lean forward. This will keep your core engaged too
- Don't let your rear knee touch the ground but go as low as you can

By Spoorthi S, fitness expert, cult — a fitness and wellness platform

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Paint Play

Turn a simple pot into a masterpiece that carries your thoughts, mood, and creativity! Participants can experiment with colours, patterns, and designs while enjoying a hands-on artistic experience.

WHEN: October 21, 7.30pm
WHERE: Fabrizo, BTM Layout
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Festive Vibes

Celebrate the Festival of Lights with style! Join for a three-day extravaganza to experience the magic of Deepavali with a live DJ and musical performances, food and drinks, along with fun activities and games.

WHEN: October 21, 8pm **WHERE:** FLO, Church Street
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Speed Thrills

Step into the adrenaline-fueled world of the GP1 performance zone. The event offers an exciting experience for speed and racing enthusiasts. Participants can enjoy high-energy go-karting on a dynamic track.

WHEN: October 21, 10am
WHERE: GP1 Performance Zone, Chennammanapalya
DETAILS: district.in

Classical Insight

Immerse yourself in the world of classical dance as you get to witness a dance performance by Kristi Ramgopal and Meghna Das that showcase rich cultural traditions. Take your art-loving friends for an evening watching creative talents.

WHEN: October 22, 6.30pm
WHERE: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
DETAILS: bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Light Up

Looking for festive way to unwind and meet new people? Join for a diya painting workshop where creativity meets conversation. Take home your colourful diya and light it at home.

WHEN: October 25, 2pm
WHERE: Zed The Baker, Indiranagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Deepavali Dhamaka

Witness The Festival Sphere, a breathtaking 25-ft geodesic dome that embodies the spirit of light and celebration. Crafted from an intricate network of LED lights, the installation transforms into an illuminated sanctuary where art and technology converge. The event highlights sunray detailing, layered acrylic textures, and dynamic programmable lighting.

WHEN: Until October 31, 6pm **WHERE:** Phoenix Marketcity, Mahadevapura

Bloom Design

Step into the delicate world of floral artistry and discover the joy of creating with blooms. In this hands-on workshop, you will learn the fundamentals of arranging fresh and artificial flowers into stunning bouquets and décor pieces.

WHEN: October 21, 11am onwards
WHERE: KNOW HOW, Jayanagar
DETAILS: highape.com

ARTCORNER

EXPRESSIVE IMAGERY

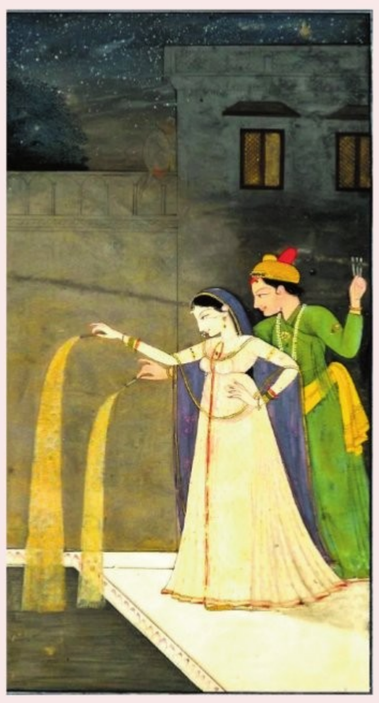
Artist Adarsh Palandi's artworks earthy pastel palettes and vibrant tones accentuate the interplay of human emotion and spatial perception, delving into how individuals respond to their environments

The art of lighting up skies

Were Deepavali festivities in India, always noisy? **Jitha Karthikeyan** decodes artworks to teach us the history of celebrations

DEEPAVALI and the crackling of fireworks have been inseparable for as long as we know. Court verdicts and green crackers have not been able to silence the din, despite environmental concerns from gasping cities like Delhi, one of the largest consumers of fireworks. Were celebrations in India always noisy and bright? Did gunpowder creep into only Hindu festivals like Deepavali?

Art gives us ample pictorial evidence of how ancient is the joy of watching the night sky light up with a burst of hues. As with all things in life, firecrackers too originated in China. Dating back to 700 CE, the Chinese used gunpowder in most festivities, in the belief that the noise would ward off evil spirits. Military expeditions and trade soon introduced the obstreperous substance to Indian shores.



PUNJAB

PAHARI paintings originated in the Himalayan kingdoms of North India and were very popular between the 17th to 19th centuries. The painting titled 'Lady Holding a Sparkler', from the Punjab Hills, dates back to 1800 and shows a couple playing with fireworks. The work is spectacular for its lighting effects, with the woman's face glowing in the radiance of the sparkler. A monkey quietly watches from the shadows, adding a note of mischief to the scene. Another painting from the same region, dating back to the same period, depicts another Deepavali celebration, but devoid of the male lover. Fleeing ducks replace the monkey, while the central figure in a pink saree loses herself to the pleasure of firecrackers.

RAJASTHAN

THE miniature painting, which shows a princess delighting in the joys of a sparkler on her palace terrace, is from Kishangarh in Rajasthan. The rulers of Kishangarh were ardent patrons of the arts, and painting flourished during their reign. Their night paintings were unique, such as this one, which captures Deepavali celebrations among the princess and her companions. In the Kishangarh style of painting, darkness was depicted using dark blue instead of black. The artwork is today housed in the National Museum in Delhi.

VARIED CELEBRATIONS

FIREWORKS were not just used for Deepavali festivities. Several artworks illustrate the widespread use of it for marriages and other important occasions. In a painting of the marriage procession of Dara Shikoh, the eldest son of the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, fireworks are visible everywhere. Created between 1740 and 1750, it perfectly shows the grandeur that these visions of brilliant lights can bring to any occasion.

Similarly, the painting titled 'Fireworks on the night of Shab-I-Barat Feast' from the 18th century is proof that these illuminations found their way into Muslim festivals too.

LUCKNOW

THE painting titled 'Ladies Playing with Fireworks' is a fine blend of European, Mughal, and Deccani influences and was executed by Mir Kalan Khan, a Lucknowi artist, in 1780. The four women in this artwork appear to be in a forest setting, with one woman actively participating in the Deepavali gala with a shimmering sparkler while the others watch with glee at the golden effect the firework has.

A WELL-DESERVED ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A perfect tribute to those who have, for centuries, perfected the art of making our Deepavali celebrations explode with glittering light is the painting 'Maker of Fireworks', by an anonymous Kolkata artist from 1794.

May these expressions in art shed light on our country's cultural heritage and serve as a reminder that it's time we illuminate our skies with the sounds of peace, drowning out the noise of war and hate.

ONTO THE SIMPLEST ROADS

AFTER years and years of scrolling on the internet and playing videogames, I think Megabonk has finally broken me. My brain's reward receptors are cooked, and I am probably in need of some medical examination. I think that the only thing that gets me up and about these days is the idea of blasting projectiles at skeletons and oversized monsters. The most cruel part of all of this is that Megabonk is stupidly simple. 130 MB. Costs ₹480. Runs on a potato computer.

The (power)ups

Megabonk is an easy game to get into, because your body is an auto-targeting, auto-shooter constantly spurting out your ammunition of choice at anything that approach you. It's exactly like Vampire Survivors, but only this is 3-dimensional.

It also escalates quite quickly. Soon, there are larger and stronger hordes of enemies. And this is where the game nudges you towards picking a strategy – or rather, a playstyle. Level-ups and special pillars provide upgrades. These upgrades only last until the end of a run and you can also add on to upgrades by investing in equippable items that you find in treasure chests. What the game does really well is get its hooks right into your brain. t also rewards you with new permanent upgrades at the end of every round if you manage to complete the smaller random quests. You unlock new characters with different starter advantages, and unlock new items you can find in the next run that might be even more helpful.

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

The (power)downs

The problem is, it also gets boring quite quickly. It's a low investment game that doesn't quite figure out the right way to continue being complex and engaging, and it risks losing you. The challenge is not constantly varying. And once you know the formula, it's not that hard to finish the missions every single time.

You can find Megabonk on the Steam store. It's currently available for Windows.

ADD A SPLASH OF COLOUR TO YOUR INDOORS

GREEN plants are great – but come on, it's the festive season, you don't really want your living room to look like a waiting room, do you? Add some drama, some colour, and maybe a plant or two that'll actually make guests ask, 'What is that?' Here are my favourite colourful indoor plants that are equal parts stylish and forgiving (well, mostly forgiving).

THEGREENMANUAL
Ekta Chaudhary
AN AUTHOR, AND FOUNDER OF GARDEN UP, A COMPANY DEDICATED TO GREENIFYING SPACES

Aglaonema 'Green Dove'

AGLAONEMA 'GREEN DOVE'

A calmer cousin of the flashy ones, but still prettier than your average green plant. Perfect if you want colour but not too much 'look at me.'

- **Watering:** Once a week.
- **Sunlight:** Low to medium light – no fuss.
- **Styling tip:** Works best as a background plant to balance out brighter aglaonemas.

Pink Aglaonema

PINK AGLAONEMA

Yes, pink leaves exist, and no, they're not fake. This beauty instantly lights up dull corners.

- **Watering:** Once a week; don't drown it.
- **Sunlight:** Medium indirect light – too much sun and the pink fades.
- **Styling tip:** Place it amidst all-green plants for a surprise pop of colour.

SNOW WHITE AGLAONEMA

The name says it all – flecks of white on green make this plant look like it's dressed up for Deepavali already.

- **Watering:** Once a week. Easy-peasy.
- **Sunlight:** Thrives in medium to low light.
- **Styling tip:** Looks stunning in sleek white or gold planters to highlight the variegation.

Snow White Aglaonema

Lipstick Aglaonema

Golden Pothos

GOLDEN POTHOS

Let's be honest, this is the one plant that will not die on you, no matter how hard you try. Those golden-yellow streaks on the leaves can brighten any corner.

- **Watering:** Once a week or when soil dries out.
- **Sunlight:** Low light tolerant, but shines in bright, indirect light.
- **Styling tip:** Grow cuttings in clear glass bottles for a chic, low-maintenance festive décor piece.

So, skip the all-green jungle look this season – your home deserves pops of pink, red, and gold too. Play with pairings, mix heights, and use colourful foliage like you'd use festive cushions – because plants, too, can style your space.

LIPSTICK AGLAONEMA

Deep red, burgundy, sometimes even magenta tones – this plant is basically wearing festive lipstick all year long.

- **Watering:** Weekly, but let the topsoil dry a bit first.
- **Sunlight:** Loves medium to bright indirect light.
- **Styling tip:** Pair it with a Snow White Aglaonema for a striking red-and-white contrast.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **HUBLI RAMAIYA GOVINDA RAJU**, S/o Ramaiah, R/o #201 3RD Cross, 10th Main, 2nd Block HMT Layout, Vidyaranyapura Bangalore - 560097, have permanently changed my name from **HUBLI RAMAIYA GOVINDA RAJU** to **HOBALAPURA RAMAIAH GOVINDRAJ**, vide affidavit dated 13/10/2025, sworn before Notary L. Puttaraju, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **HASSAN MAKHATUMSAHEB NAVALUR**, S/o Maktumhusain R/o No. 29, SBM Colony Chunchaghatta, Konanakunte JP Nagar 7th Phase Bengaluru – 560062, have permanently changed my name from **HASSAN MAKHATUMSAHEB NAVALUR** to **HASSAN MAKTUMHUSSAIN NAVALUR,** vide affidavit dated 13/10/2025, sworn before notary L. Puttaraju, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, C. NAGESH S/o. Chikkaiah No. 196, 6th Cross, S.G.Kaval, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore-560 091 I, declare that in Aadhar Card and other document my name mentioned as **C.NAGESH** But in my old Passport my name mentioned as **C.NAGESHA** both names are belongs to me only, vide affidavit dated 18-10-2025 Sworn before Notary H.R. Karunakar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MUDDU MADAPPA ARADHYA V,** S/o. Veerabhadra Aradhya, Residing at No. 165, Indlawadi, Bengaluru Rural -562106, Karnataka, have changed my name to **MUDDUMADAPPA ARADHYA** vide affidavit dated: 18.10.2025 before notary DEVARAJA E, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Saima Siddique, D/o Gulam Hyder, R/a No.11/1, North Street, Neelasandra, Bangalore-47 have changed my name from "**Saima Siddique Gulam Hyder**" to "**SAIMA SIDDIQUE**" and corrected my father's name from "**Gulam Hyder Dastagir**" to "**GULAM HYDER**" vide Affidavit dt: 16-10-2025 before Notary B.M. Chandrashekar Bangalore.

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I AIM TO CREATE A MULTIVERSE WITH *GREEN*: RAAJ VIJAY

A SHARADHAA

FOR a first-time director, the journey from concept to screen is often a leap into the unknown. With *Green*, that journey has been extraordinary. This psychological mind-bending thriller has travelled the festival circuit for over a year, winning nineteen awards along the way. Produced by Raaj Vijay and BN Swamy under Bourn Films and Savika Enterprises, presented by Gunadya Production, and distributed by Ravi Films, *Green* is now set to reach Kannada audiences in theatres on October 23.

What makes this debut remarkable is not only its global recognition, but the way it blends suspense, emotion, and visual storytelling into a cohesive, thought-provoking experience. From a forest that seems alive to characters whose fears mirror our own, the film explores the fine line between reality and imagination.

In an exclusive conversation, the director shares insights on the inspiration behind *Green*, the symbolism in its title, the meticulous casting process, and the philosophy guiding this ambitious debut.

Excerpts :

A still from the film

Green has won nineteen awards across international film festivals. Why release it in theatres now?

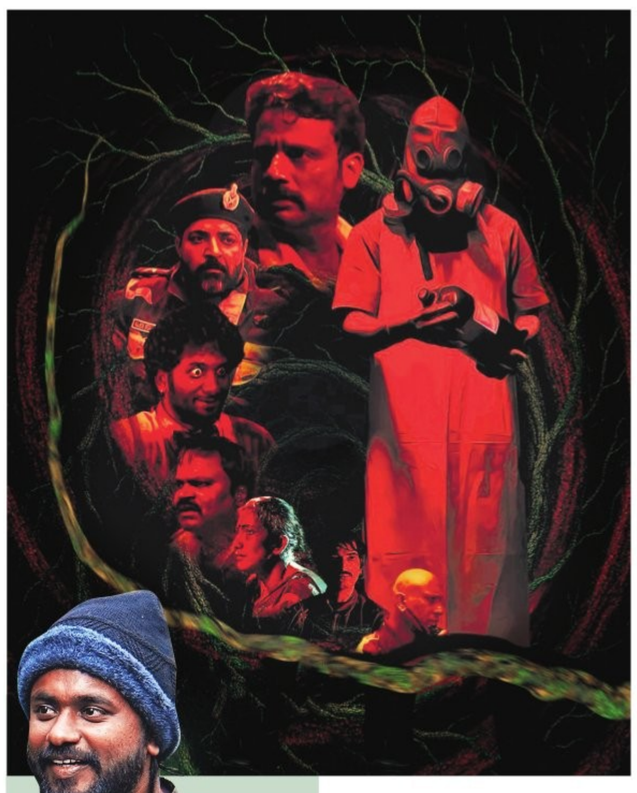
The content in *Green* has always kept me motivated. The recognition it received at festivals, awards for best thriller and best psychological mind-bending thriller, drove us forward. Bringing it to theatres now feels right. The film has been celebrated worldwide, accepted by top juries, and even subtitled versions were appreciated. Kannada audiences deserve to experience it firsthand.

The title *Green* sounds symbolic. What does it represent?

The forest in the film is almost a character, reflecting the colours and emotions we wanted to capture. Rather than calling it a forest story, we represented it through universal *green*. The title itself, half *green* and half dry, mirrors the core conflict and emotional undertone of the film. It is both symbolic and universal.

Why choose a psychological mind-bending thriller for a debut instead of a commercial genre?

There is a saying in writing: either you confuse or you convince. I wanted the first film to make an impact. Audiences often remember a director's debut, and it sets the tone for future films. *Green* had to answer questions for future projects while holding faith and creating an impact. It felt important to challenge both the audience and the filmmaker.


Raaj Vijay

The cast includes Gopal Krishna Deshpande, Balaji Manohar, RJ Vikki, Vishwanath Mandalika, Shiva Manju, Dimpy Fadhya, Murudaiah Ramachandra, and Girish. How were these actors chosen?

Every role and face had to be memorable. Each character wears just one costume, so there are no distractions. Choosing actors was a long process because we needed unique faces that would stay with the audience. Every character had to feel alive and integral to the story.

There is a mysterious mask in the film. Who is behind it, and what does it represent?

Every element, from actors to the forest and surroundings, carries its own perception. Every scene connects metaphorically. The mask is part of that language. The only way to truly understand its meaning is to watch the story unfold from beginning to end.

There is a palpable fear and confusion in the characters. Is it real or psychological?

The threat is real, but fear is explored deeply. There is a horror undertone and a psychological edge. Curiosity drives the narrative, and unpredictability keeps the audience engaged. The thrill comes from both the mind and the external tension.

The story runs between reality and imagination. How was this approached?

The line between reality and imagination is thin but intentional. The film is thought-provoking and designed to stay in the audience's mind long after the theatre lights come on. It balances the tangible and the psychological, creating a lingering impact.

During the festival rounds, what feedback did you receive?

People often asked, "How did you crack this?" The curiosity and engagement were encouraging. Now it is about letting the Kannada audience decode it. I trust viewers to explore the layers built into the story.

Green talks about the monster within. How did actors connect to this idea?

The actors understood how the inner monster controls us and how we, in turn, control it. *Green* gives clarity about human nature, fear, and introspection. It is subtle but powerful.

How would you describe the purpose of _Green_?

It entertains, questions, and provokes thought. The sound design by Francis Xavier enhances the thriller experience. Cinematography by K Madhusudhan, the VFX, and the use of real locations blend technology with reality. It gives the film the feel of a big-budget production while keeping the storytelling intimate and human.

Q&A

How does this film shape your journey as a director?

Cinema is world-building. With *Green*, the aim is to create a multiverse where characters remain at the center, explored across different subjects. This is just the beginning. The goal is to keep building layered, engaging universes while keeping audiences invested in the characters and their journeys.

What should audiences take away from _Green_?

Immerse yourself fully. Feel the tension, fear, subtle emotions, and metaphors in every scene. It is a film that stays with you, makes you think, question, and feel. Above all, it is about enjoying the ride. This is a world designed with care and intention.

Nagaraj Somayaji announces comedy thriller *Devi Mahathme*

CE FEATURES

NAGARAJ SOMAYAJI, who impressed audiences with his directorial debut *Maryade Prashane* (2024), is now gearing up for his sophomore outing, a comedy thriller titled *Devi Mahathme*. Set against the vibrant backdrop of Kundapura, the film hints at a unique regional flavour, blending humour with a slice-of-life sensibility. The project, produced by Vidya Gandhirajan, has been officially announced around the festive celebration of Deepavali.

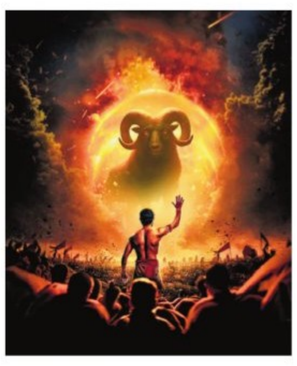
Addressing potential misconceptions about the title, Nagaraj clarifies, "Despite the name, this is not a female-centric film. The story uses the famous Yakshagana performance *Devi Mahathme* as a backdrop, but it is not devotional in nature. It is about ordinary people, their quirks, struggles, and humourous moments. Many incidents in the film are inspired by real-life stories I have witnessed in and around Kundapura. I wanted to capture these everyday moments with a lighthearted, comedic lens."

He adds, "The title hints at the essence of the film, but audiences will understand the full story once they watch it. The subject is original, with no references to other films, yet the title is catchy and curiosity-inducing."

While the cast is still being finalised, Nagaraj Somayaji has assembled a good technical team. Arvind Kuplikar is on board as the writer, SK Rao handles cinematography, and Prasad K Shetty will compose the music. "I wanted technicians who could bring authenticity and a fresh visual style. Each of them has a deep sense of storytelling that complements the comedic thriller tone," Nagaraj says. The team, currently in preparation, plans to go on floors soon.

Nagaraj Somayaji

Ravikiran to lead Pan-India action drama Patli



CE FEATURES

RAVIKIRAN, currently awaiting the release of *Gadhadari Hanuman* and having completed the first schedule of *Appu Abhimani*, is all set to headline a raw, high-octane action saga with the upcoming Pan-India project, *Patli*, to be released in Kannada, Telugu, Tamil and Hindi. The team recently unveiled the film's title poster, hinting at a brutal war and a spectacle designed for mass appeal.

Written and directed by Rocky Somli, *Patli* is produced by Basavaraj Hurkadli and Renuka Prasad under the Virabh Studios banner. The film has been in development for over a year, with the team meticulously crafting the story and action sequences.

While the plot remains tightly under wraps, the title poster already promises thrilling action, with high-octane fight sequences led by Ravikiran expected to be a major highlight.

"*Patli* is designed to be a large-scale action film that connects with audiences across India," the team shares. Only a glimpse of the film has been revealed so far, with more details,including the official launch and full cast announcement, expected soon.

Ravikiran

Komal Kumar 's next, a dark comedy, set for theatrical release

The film releasing this October end, also stars Tanisha Kuppanda, who doubles up as a producer along with Karthik Kiran Sankapal and Ravi Kiran N

Tanisha Kuppanda and Komal Kumar

CE FEATURES

FOR years, classmates called Komal Kumar, 'Kona Kona', a teasing nickname that once irritated him. Today, the actor smiles at the memory. "Back in school, my teacher used to call me Kona Kona, and I would get angry. Now I am starring in a film with the same name. Life has its funny ways," he says.

Kona, set to release across Karnataka on October 31, marks a refreshing subject for Komal, blending dark humour with real emotions. The film comes from Kuppandas Productions, led by Bigg Boss fame Tanisha Kuppanda, along with Karthik Kiran Sankapal and Ravi Kiran N, while Suriyan joins as co-producer.

Tanisha, who also plays Lakshmi, Komal's on-screen wife, takes on a new challenge both in front of and behind the camera. "In *Kona*, I play a character that audiences have never seen from me before. Some might even wonder if it is really me. Producing this film was a big step, and I could not have done it without the support of Ravi Kiran sir and Karthik sir," she says.

Directed by Hari Krishna S with State Award-winning filmmaker Nagesh N as co-director, *Kona* is inspired by a true incident and promises to uncover the humour that hides in life's sharp turns. The technical team includes Venus Nagaraj Murthy for cinematography, Shashank Sheshagiri for music and background score, and Umesh R B as editor.

The cast also features Rithvi Jagadhish, Namratha Gowda, Vinay Gowda, Raghu Ramankoppa, Vijay Chendur, MK Mutt, Ranjith Gowda, Thukali Santhosh, Jagappa, and Manju Pavagada.

Suchith to lead *4.30 – 6 Muhurtha: Nalvaru Kaanasuttilla*

CE FEATURES

THIS new film, titled *4.30 – 6 Muhurtha: Nalvaru Kaanasuttilla* brings together family legacy, new talent, and a heartfelt story. Produced by Dharmashree Manjunath, known for Rathavara, and D Yogaraj under the banners of Dharmashree Enterprises and Neelakantha Films, the film is directed by Poovai Suresh and Shivaraj.

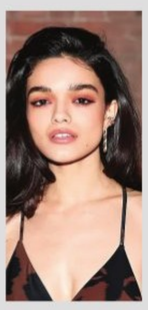
The project introduces MN Suchith, Manjunath's son, in his first lead role, with Satvika as the female lead. Anil and Mangaluru-based Dhanya form the second lead pair.

Set in the 1990s, the film is a nostalgic reflection on human relationships and traditions. Weddings were grand, invitations were personally delivered, and emotional bonds were at the heart of every celebration, and this story captures the warmth of those times and the depth of connections that made life meaningful, shares producer D Yogaraj.

Satvika anf Suchith

Most of the film will be shot in Bengaluru, with song sequences planned in the scenic locales of Chikkamagaluru and Mangaluru. Yogaraj adds.

Rachel Zegler to portray Gloria Estefan in biopic



CE FEATURES

GLORIA Estefan has officially confirmed that a biopic on her life is finally taking shape, and Hollywood star Rachel Zegler has been chosen to play her.

The 68-year-old Cuban-American music icon revealed that the project has been "years in the making", but things are now inching closer to a green light. "We're still working on the green light because we're figuring out where to do it and how to do it," Estefan told The Sun. "This has been in the works for quite a few years now. You work and work, and then suddenly, boom, the trigger's pulled, and you've got to do it right away."

Praising the West Side Story breakout star, Estefan couldn't contain her excitement. "I think she's awesome; I think she's incredible. I know she killed it in Evita," she said, adding that she's confident Zegler would say yes once the film officially moves forward. "I met her on Zoom. She's got a beautiful singing voice, and she's a great actor. I just need to offer her the actual part."